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81

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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



TM

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

AND NOW--
CLOAK &
DAGGER!



**STALKERS
IN THE
SHADOWS!**

WHAT DO THE
SPECTACULAR
SPIDER-MAN...

...THE MYSTERIOUS
CLOAK & DAGGER...

...AND THAT VENGEFUL
VIGILANTE, THE PUNISHER,
HAVE IN COMMON?

STAN LEE PRESENTS:
**STALKERS
IN THE
SHADOWS**

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DANNEMORA STATE PRISON IS AN UNPLEASANT PLACE...



...HOUSING MANY UNPLEASANT PEOPLE.

ANOTHER DAY HAS COME AND GONE, BOOMERANG, AND YOU'RE STILL WITH US.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT DRAMATIC ESCAPE YOU PROMISED EVERYONE WHEN YOU WERE FIRST BROUGHT IN?



YOU'RE LAUGHING NOW-- BUT I'M GONNA MAKE SURE I BUST OUTTA HERE ON YOUR SHIFT!

YOU WON'T FIND LIFE SO FUNNY ON THE UNEMPLOYMENT LINE!

THE GUARDS CONTINUE THEIR ROUNDS--



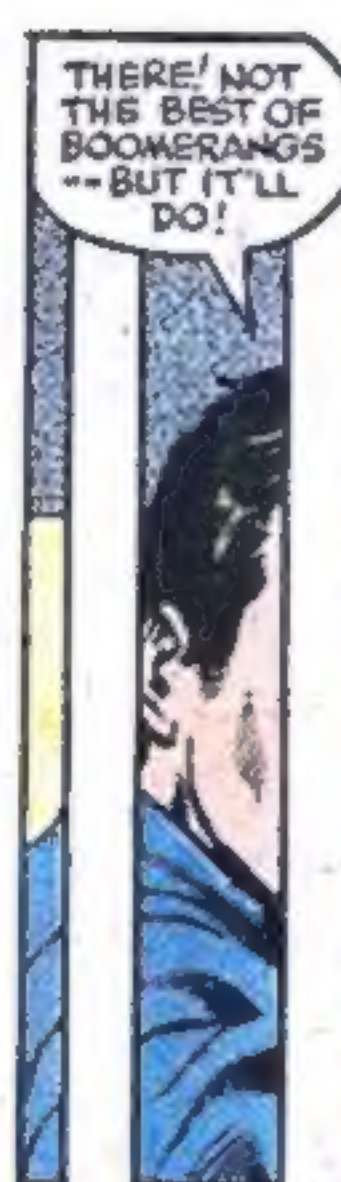
--LEAVING THE MAN CALLED BOOMERANG, AND HIS FELLOW PRISONER, ALONE IN THEIR SPECIAL CELL-BLOCK!

DID YOU GET IT, BOOMERANG?



OF COURSE, PUNISHER! NO ONE NOTICED THAT I ATE MY SOUP WITH TWO SPOONS--

--OR THAT I'D PALMED ONE!





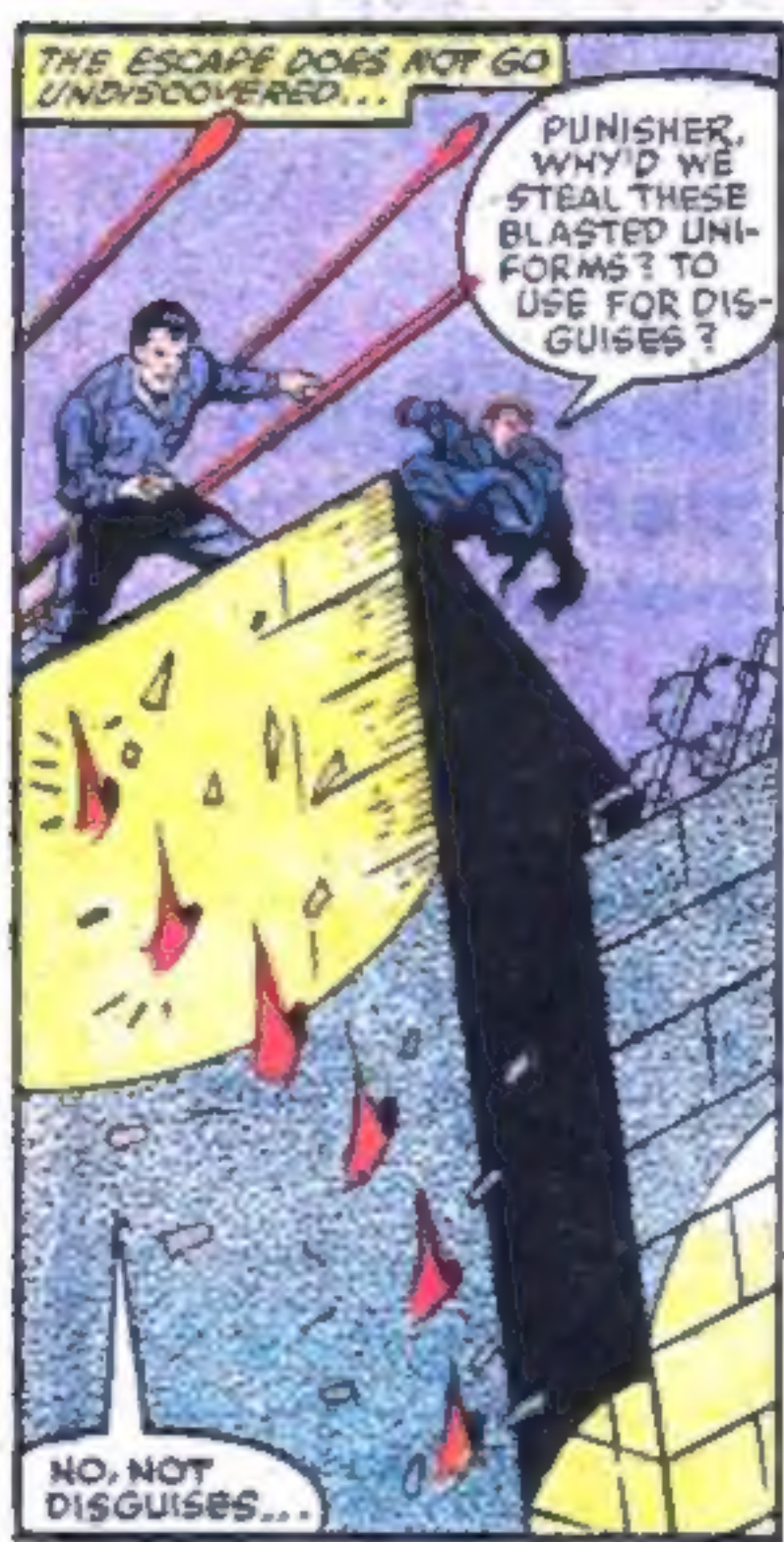
ALL IT'S GONNA GET YOU--IS A TRANSFER TO SOLITARY CONFINEMENT!

I WOULDN'T BE TOO SURE ABOUT THAT.

EH?

THE PUNISHER STRIKES SWIFTLY AND WITHOUT MERCY! IF THE GUARDS HAD BEEN CRIMINALS--THOSE HE LIVES TO PUNISH--THEY WOULD BE DEAD...

ONLY THE FACT THAT THEY ARE PEACE OFFICERS GUARANTEES THEIR SURVIVAL.



THE ESCAPE DOES NOT GO UNDISCOVERED...

PUNISHER, WHY'D WE STEAL THESE BLASTED UNIFORMS? TO USE FOR DISGUISES?

NO, NOT DISGUISES...



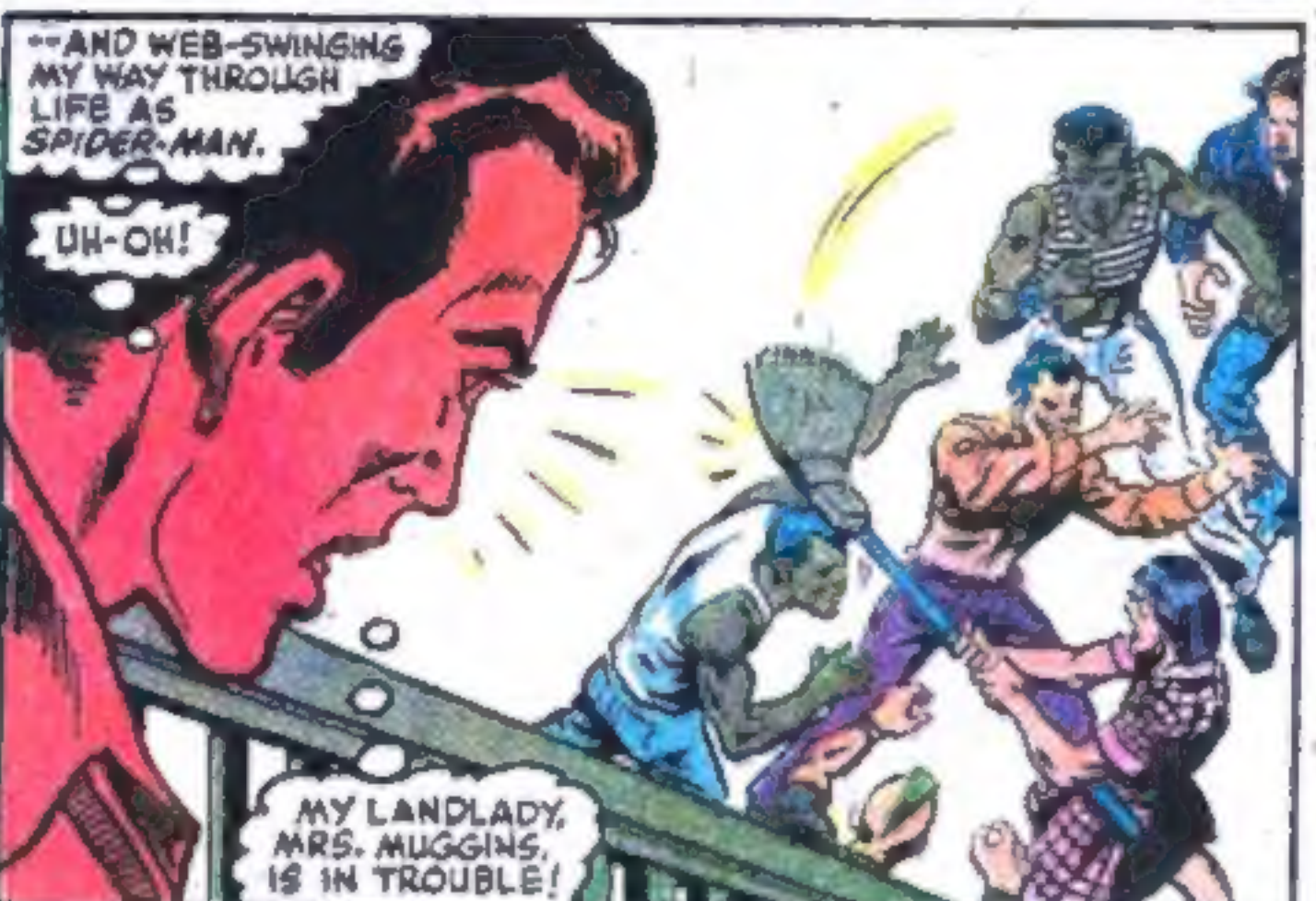
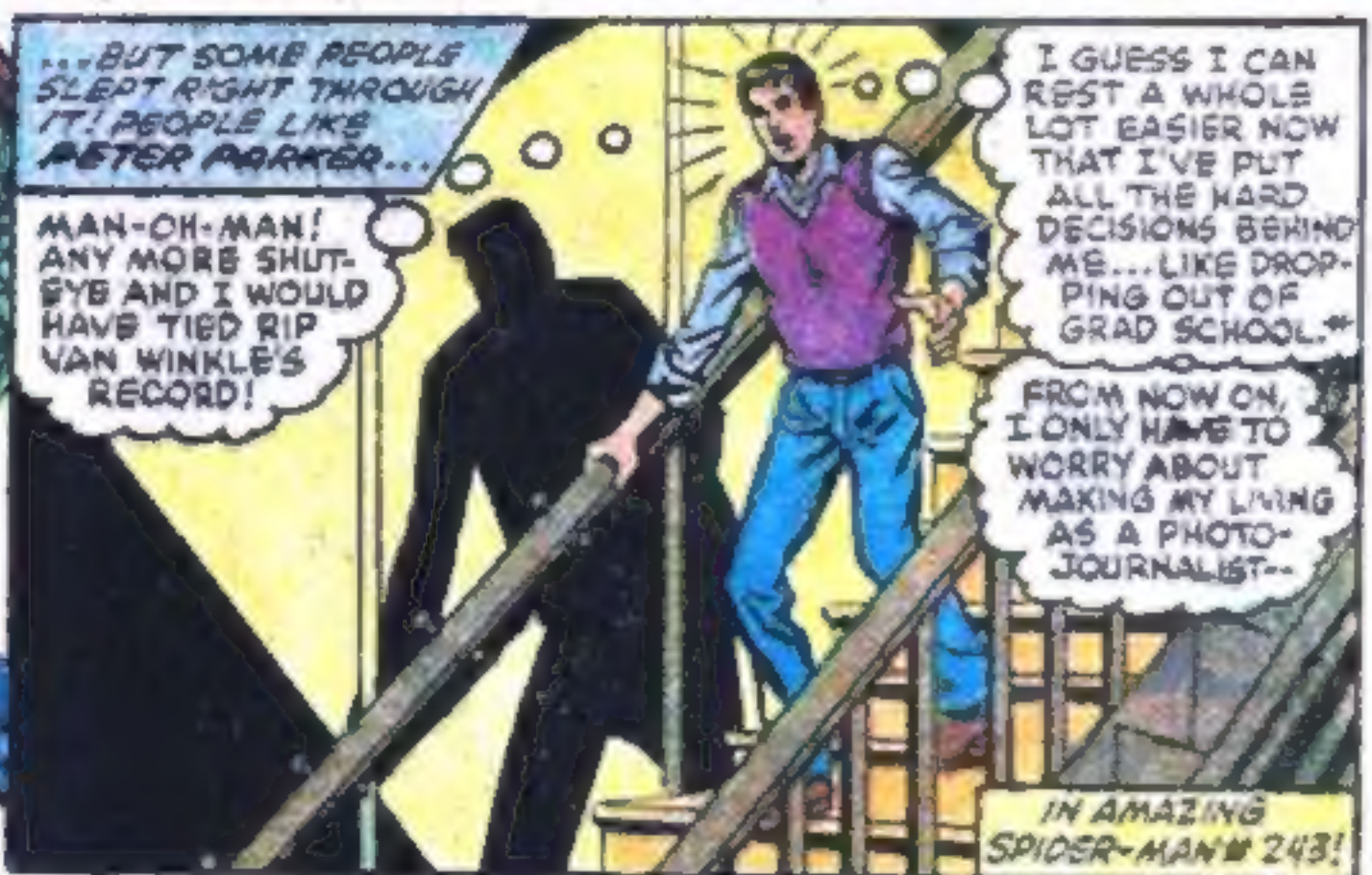
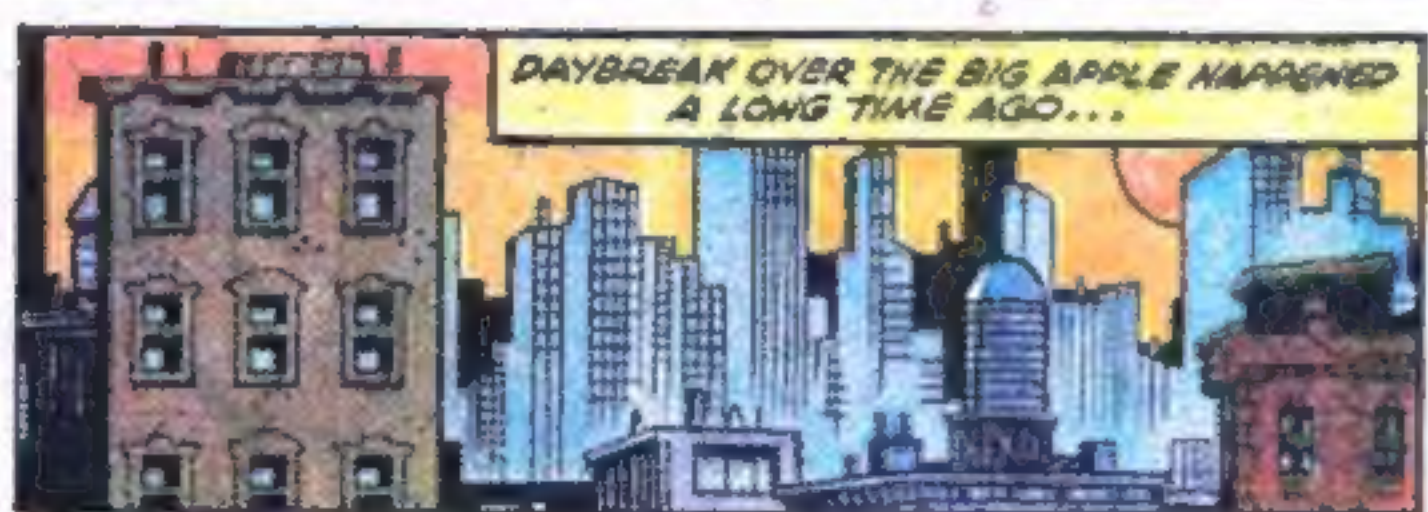
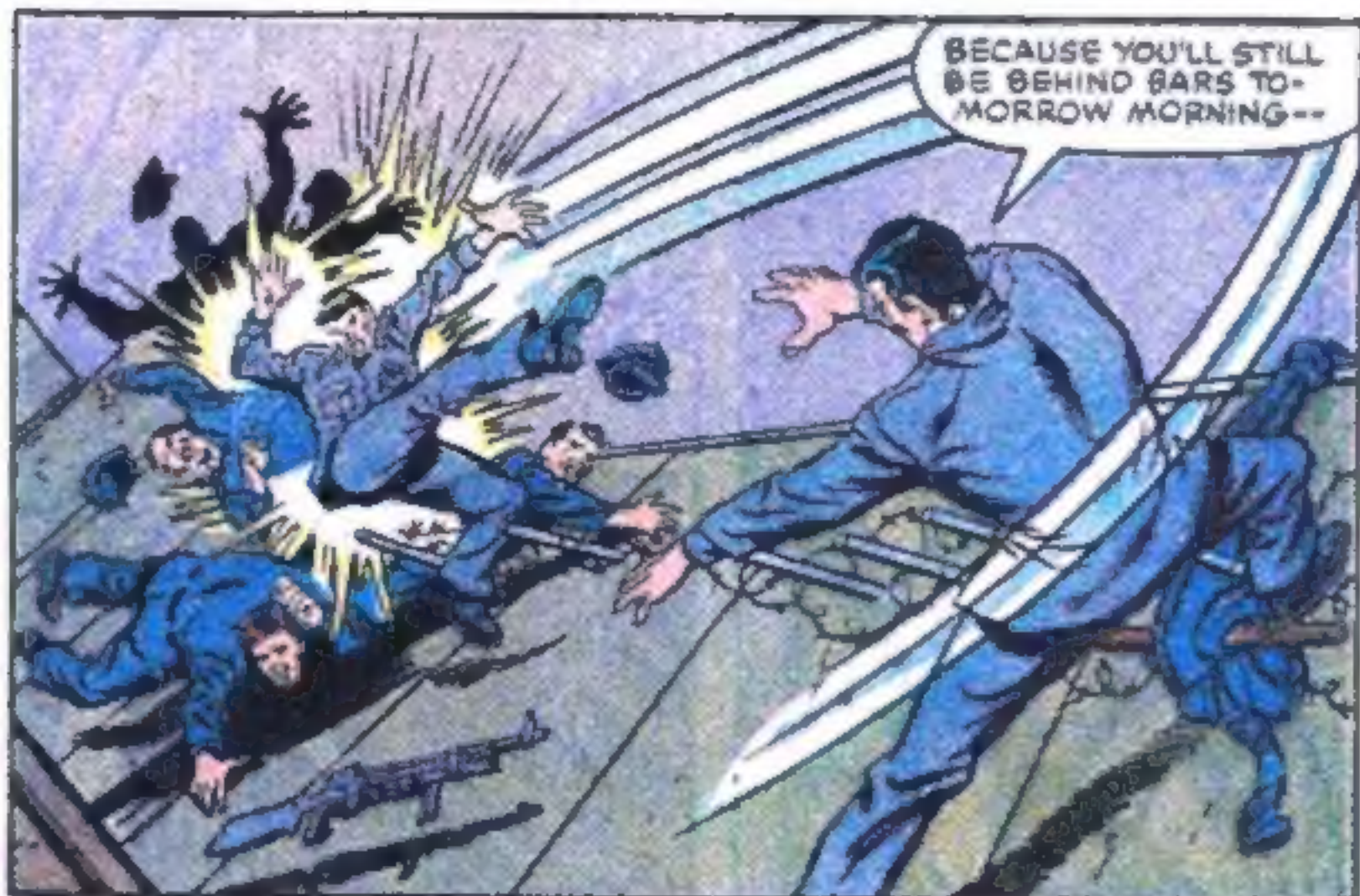
"...FOR A ROPELADDER!"

HURRY! SNAG THAT WEIGHTED END ON THOSE TREES BELOW!



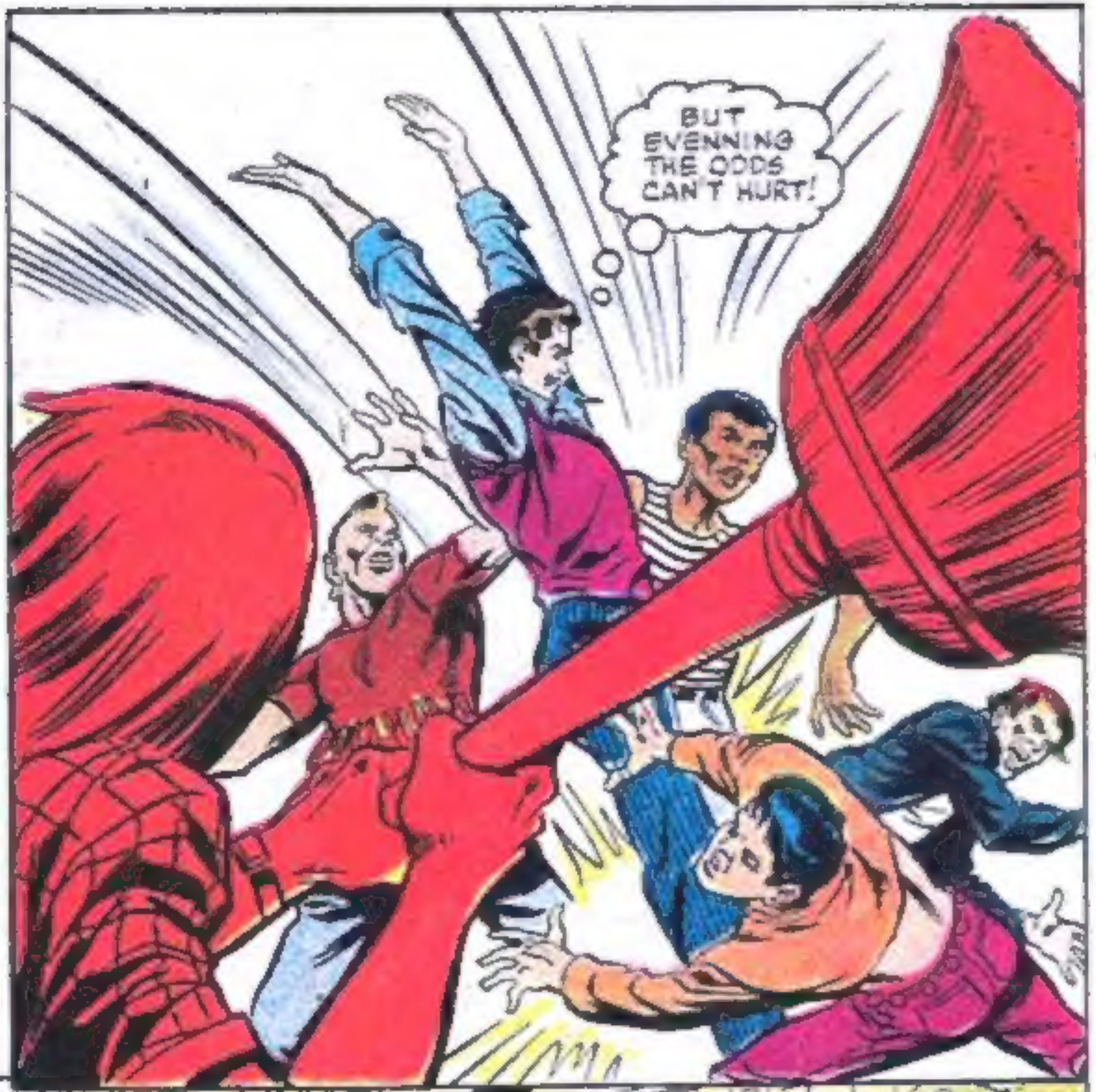
BOY, IF THE KINGPIN COULD ONLY SEE ME NOW! HE'D MAKE ME HIS NUMBER ONE ASSASSIN FOR SURE!

BOOMERANG, IT'S TOO BAD THAT YOU WILL NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO BOAST TO HIM ABOUT THIS ESCAPE.





MRS. MUGGINS IS A TOUGH OLD BIRD!



BUT EVENING THE ODDS CAN'T HURT!



BEAT IT, YOU PUNKS!

WE'VE GOT 'EM ON THE RUN, PARKER!



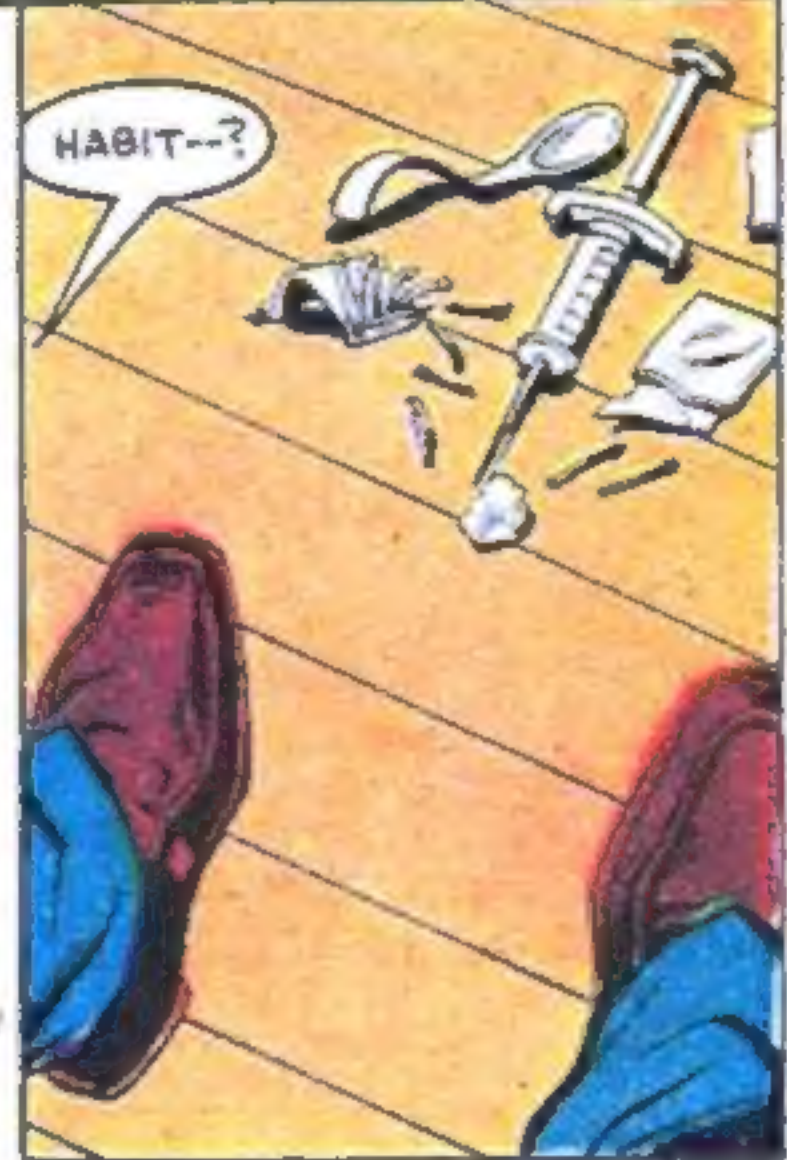
WE MAKE QUITE A TEAM, PARKER!

THAT SEEMED LIKE A PRETTY SENSELESS ASSAULT, MRS. MUGGINS. WHAT'D THEY HOPE TO STEAL FROM YOU-- YOUR BROOM?

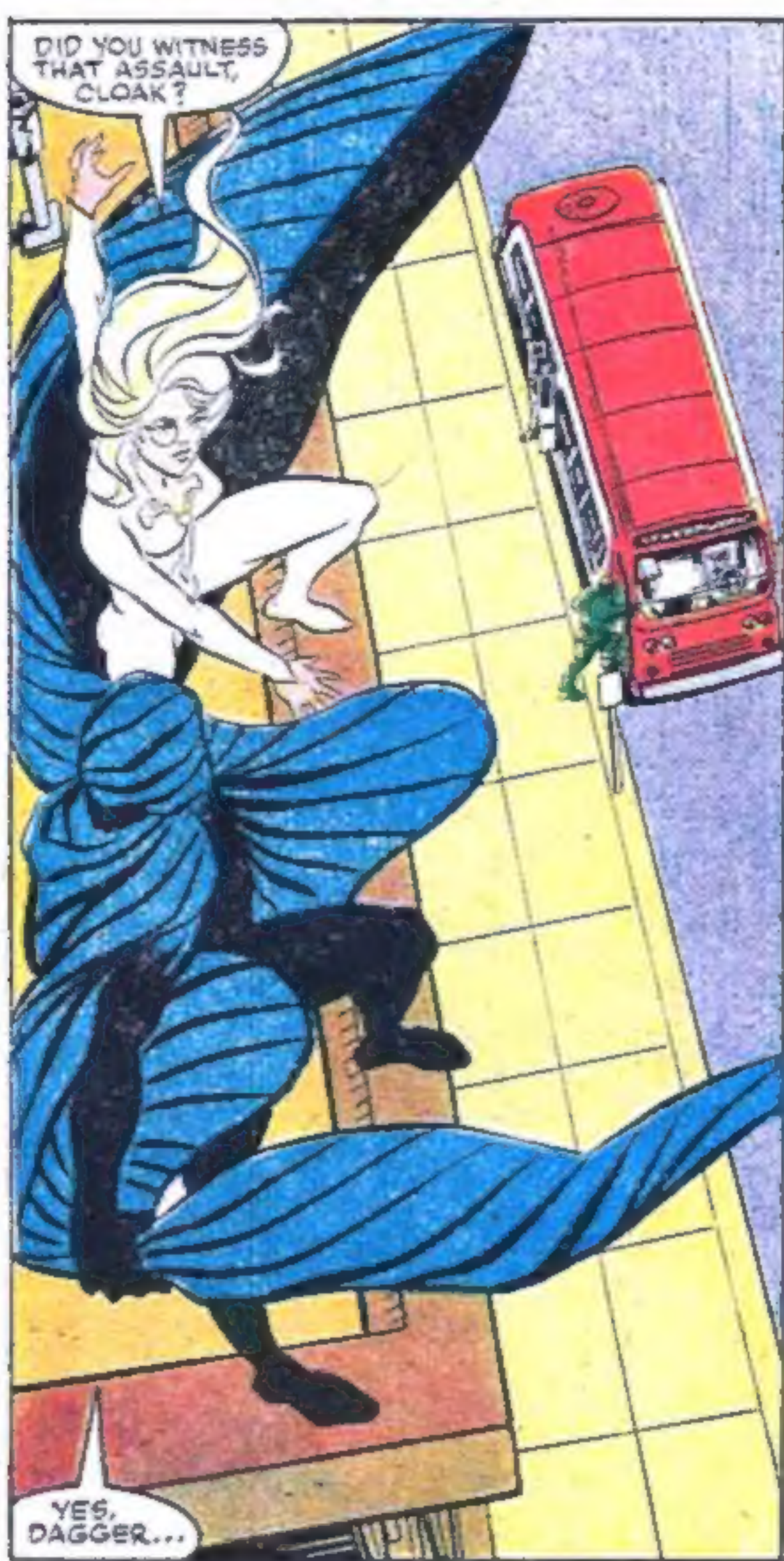


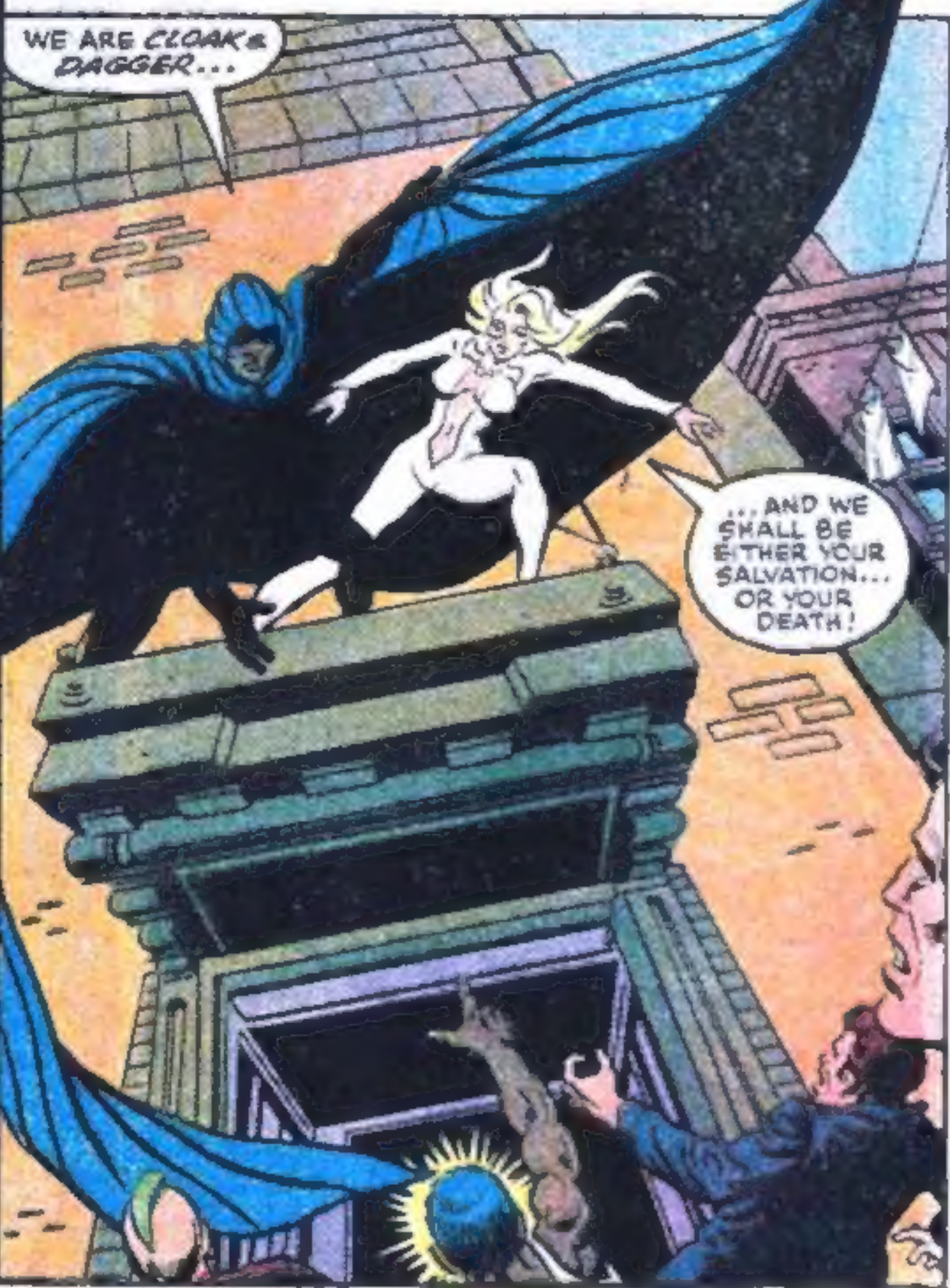
THEIR TYPE DOESN'T PLAN, PARKER! WHEN THE HUNGER HITS 'EM, THEY STRIKE--

--HITTIN' ON ANYTHING OR ANYONE THAT MIGHT SATISFY THEIR HABIT!



HABIT--?







THE POISON IN YOUR
VEINS HAS DRIVEN YOU
TO PREY UPON OTHERS.



THE POISON
MUST BE
PURGED!

THEIR JUDGEMENT
ANNOUNCED...



...THE GIRL CALLED
DAGGER UNLEASHES
HER KNIVES OF LIGHT!



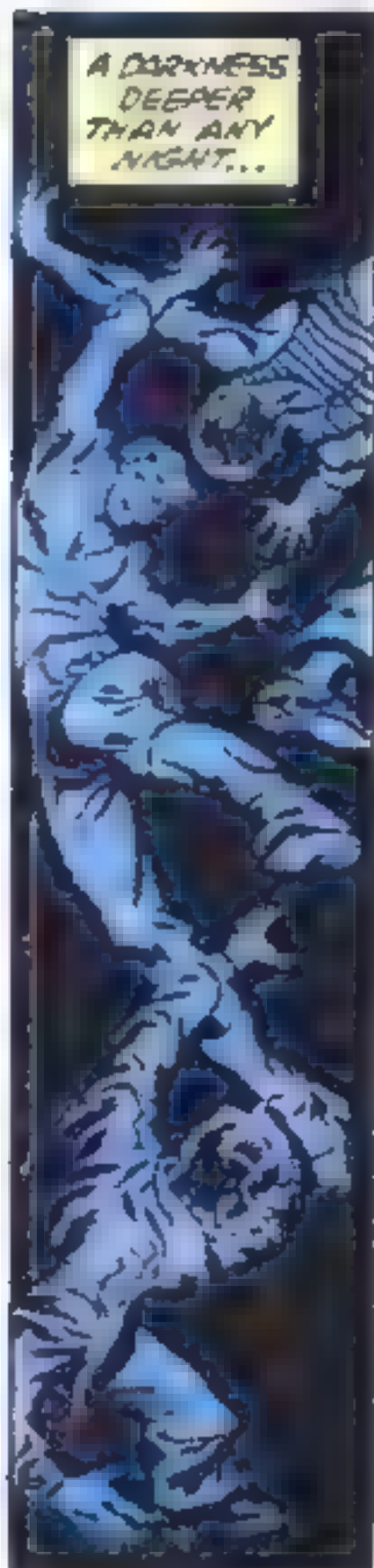
THEY STAB
DEEPER AND
COLDER THAN
ANY STEEL.



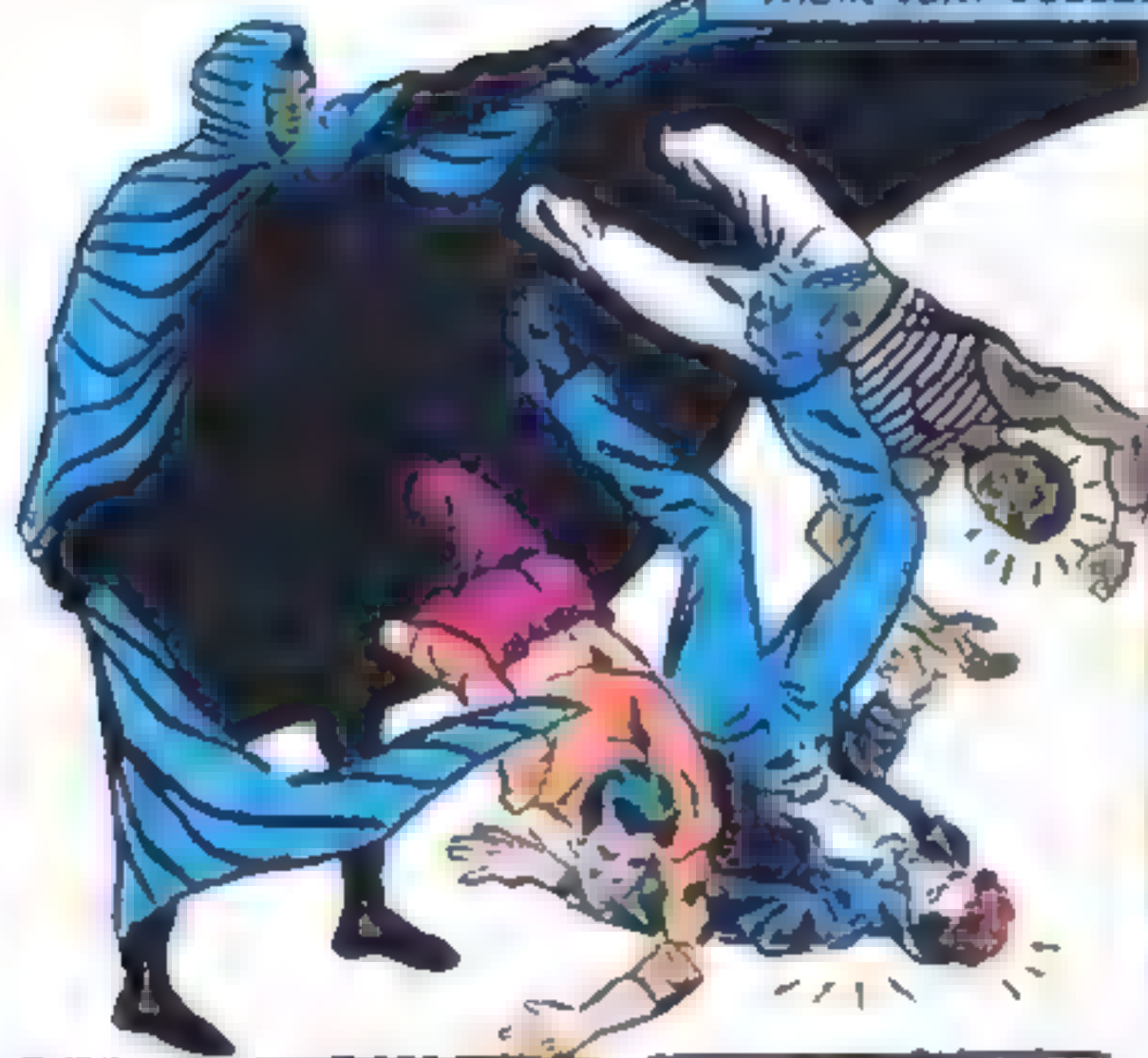
THOSE NOT IMMEDIATELY
STRICKEN ATTEMPT FLIGHT.



THE OTHER ONE!
W-H-E...CAME FROM
NOWHERE!

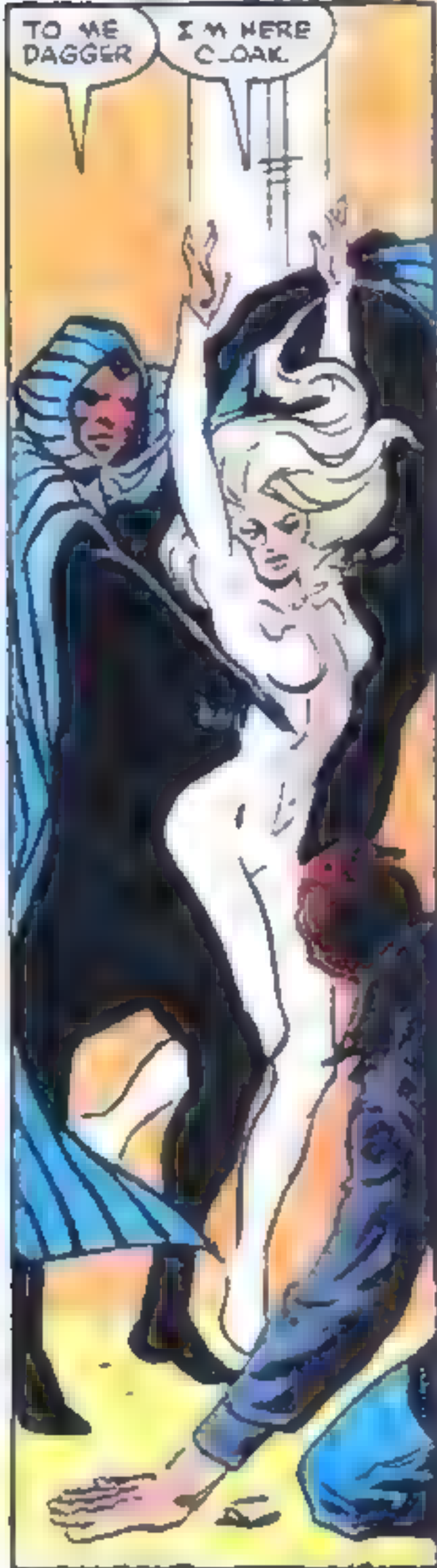


A DARKNESS THAT CHILLS
THEIR VERY SOULS...



TO ME
DAGGER

I'M HERE
C-O-A-K.



THEY VANISH INTO
THE DARKNESS



I...I FEEL
DIFFERENT!



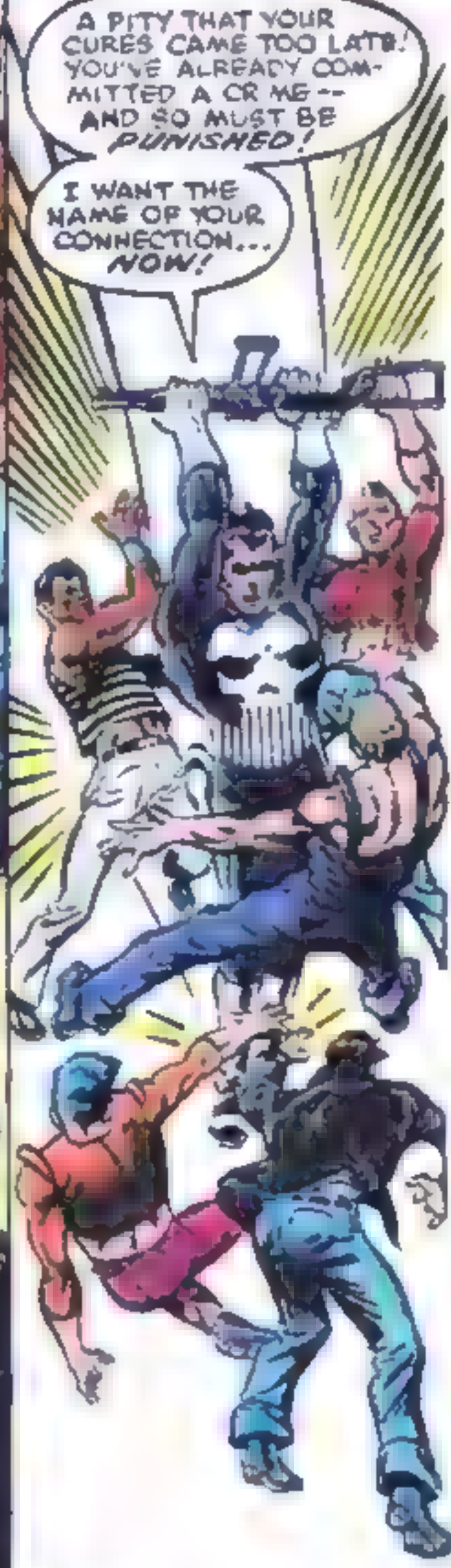
ME, TOO!
I AIN'T
GOT THE
SHAKES!

HEY, MAN...
I THINK
I'M CLEAN!

I DON'T KNOW
HOW-- BUT WE'RE
FREE FROM THE JUNK!

A PITY THAT YOUR
CURES CAME TOO LATE!
YOU'VE ALREADY COM-
MITTED A CR ME--
AND SO MUST BE
PUNISHED!

I WANT THE
NAME OF YOUR
CONNECTION...
NOW!





MEANWHILE, AT COLUMBIA PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL...

FELICIA HARDY? YES, SHE IS A PATIENT HERE...



...BUT NO ONE'S ALLOWED UP TO HER FLOOR WITHOUT A POLICE PASS.

I SEE, THANKS.



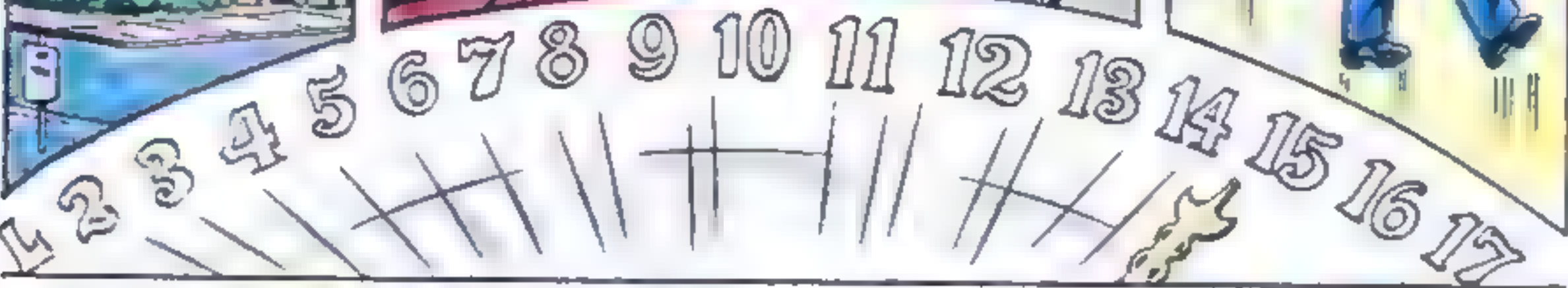
SIXTEENTH FLOOR? OFF-LIMITS, I'M AFRAID.

A WHOLE FLOOR?



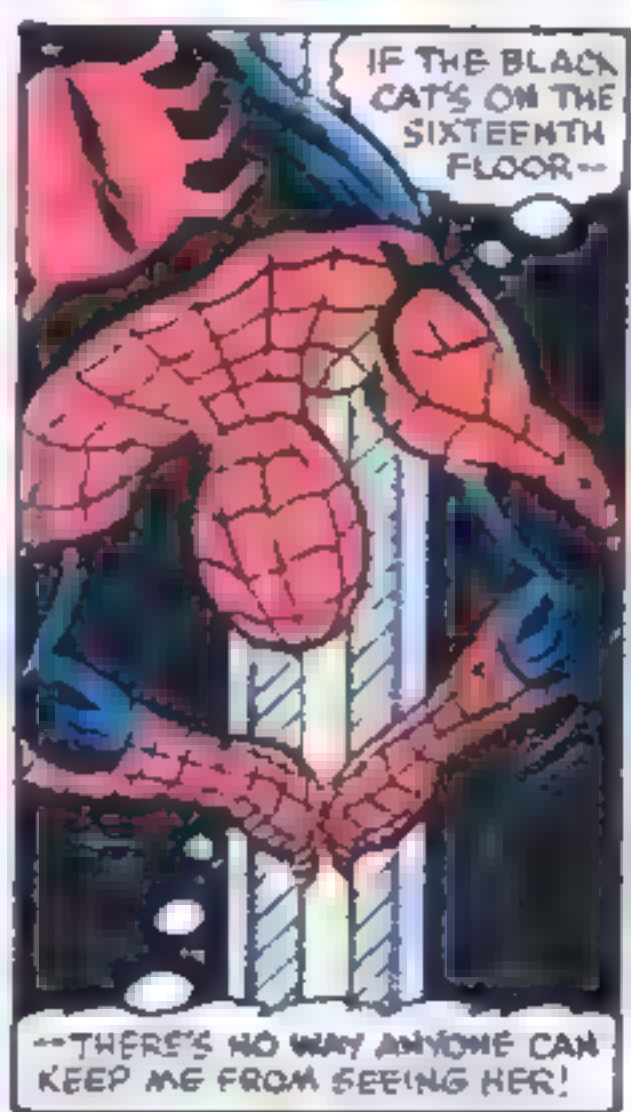
YEP, THE POLICE ARE GUARDING SOMEBODY PRETTY SPECIAL.

THEN, MY SICK AUNT MUST BE ON FIFTEEN



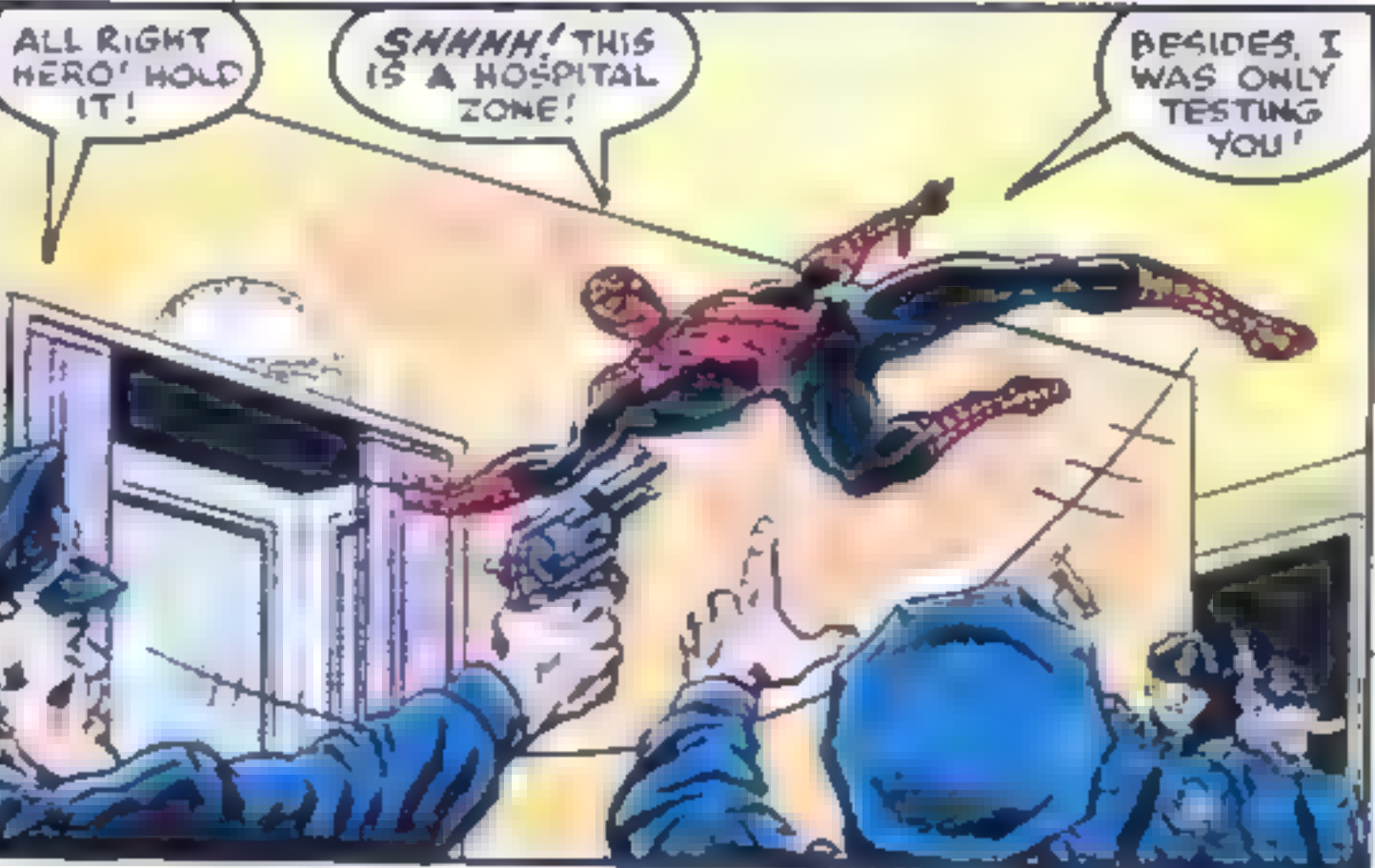
MEANWHILE, IN THE ELEVATOR SHAFT.

SPIDER-MAN CONTINUES UP TO THE NEXT FLOOR, AS ONLY HE CAN...



IF THE BLACK CAT'S ON THE SIXTEENTH FLOOR--

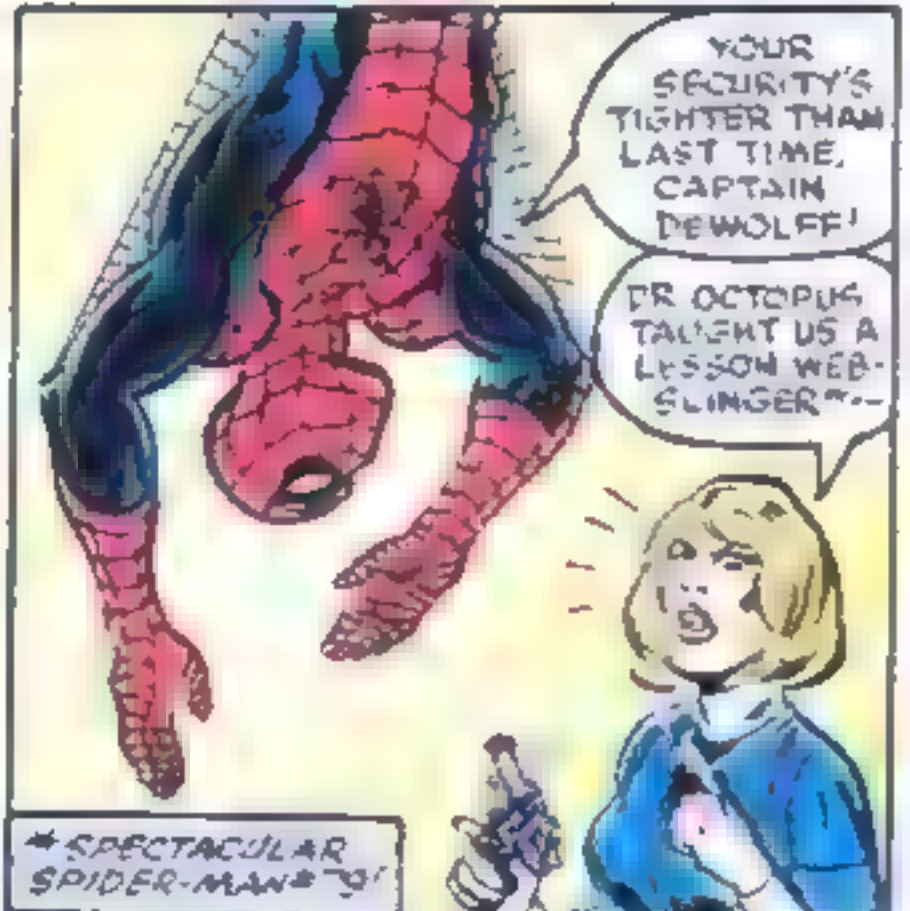
--THERE'S NO WAY ANYONE CAN KEEP ME FROM SEEING HER!



ALL RIGHT HERO! HOLD IT!

SHHHH! THIS IS A HOSPITAL ZONE!

BESIDES, I WAS ONLY TESTING YOU!



YOUR SECURITY'S TIGHTER THAN LAST TIME, CAPTAIN DEWOLFF!

DR OCTOPUS TAUGHT US A LESSON WEB-SLINGER!

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

-- WHEN YOU PLAY WITH SUPER-TYPES, YOU PLAY FOR KEEPS!

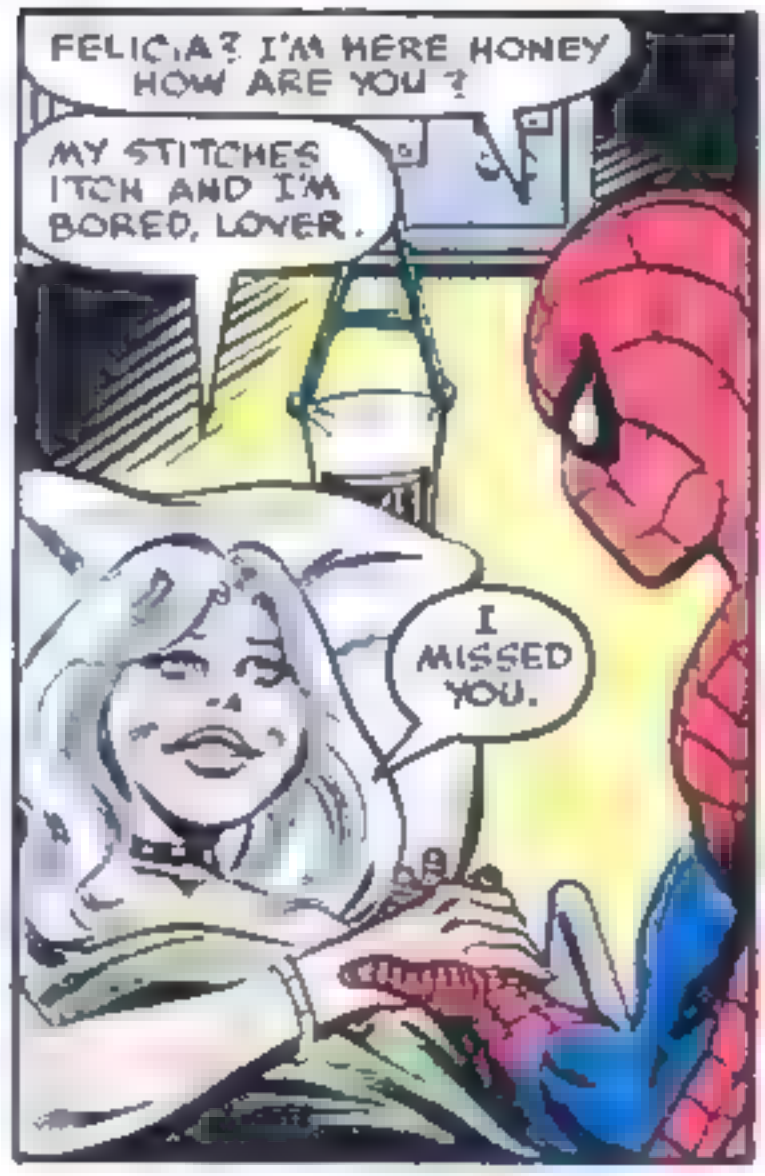
GO ON IN HERO-- THE *BLACK CAT* IS WAITING FOR YOU!

A woman with blonde hair is lying in bed, looking out of a doorway. In the doorway, two silhouetted figures are standing and talking.

FELICIA? I'M HERE HONEY HOW ARE YOU?

MY STITCHES ITCH AND I'M BORED, LOVER.

I MISSED YOU.

Spider-Man is leaning over a hospital bed, talking to a woman with blonde hair who is sitting up. He is holding her hand.

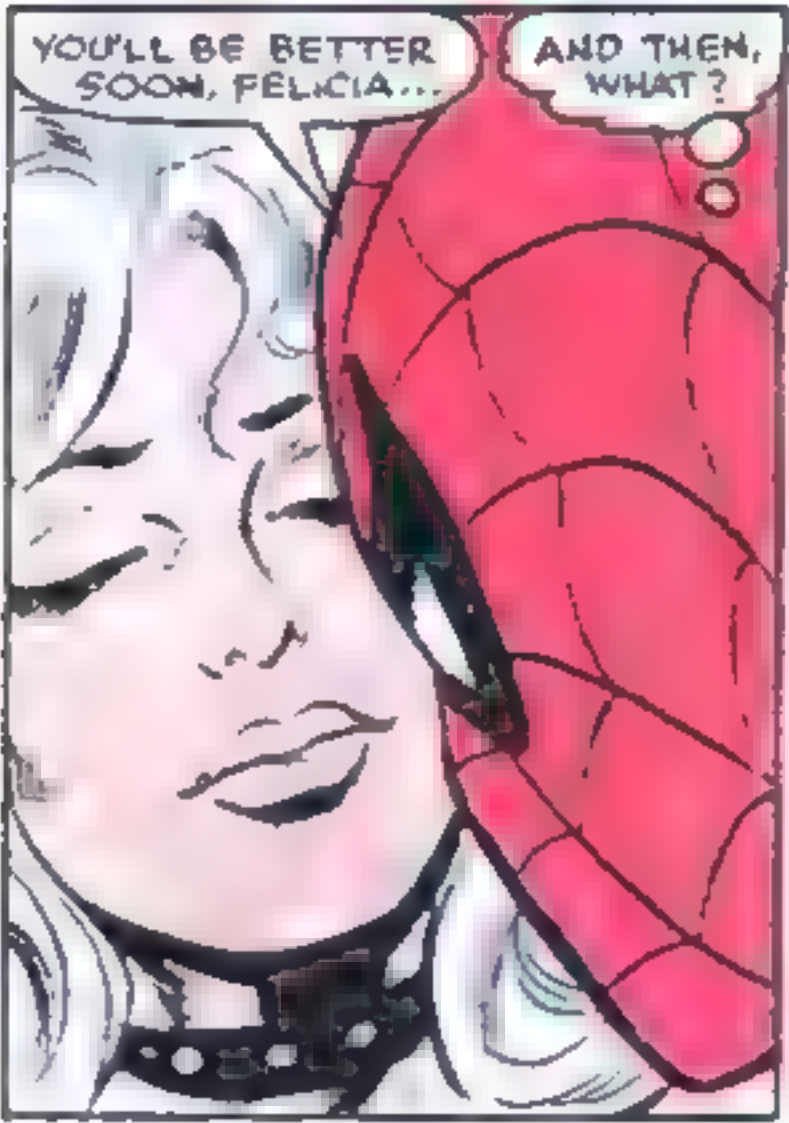
I MISSED YOU TOO-- BUT I HAD TO ATTEND TO SOME BUSINESS.

YOU'RE LUCKY I CAN'T WAIT TILL I'M OUT OF HERE ...AND OFF SEDATION.

Spider-Man is climbing out of a hospital room window. A woman is lying in bed, looking out the window.

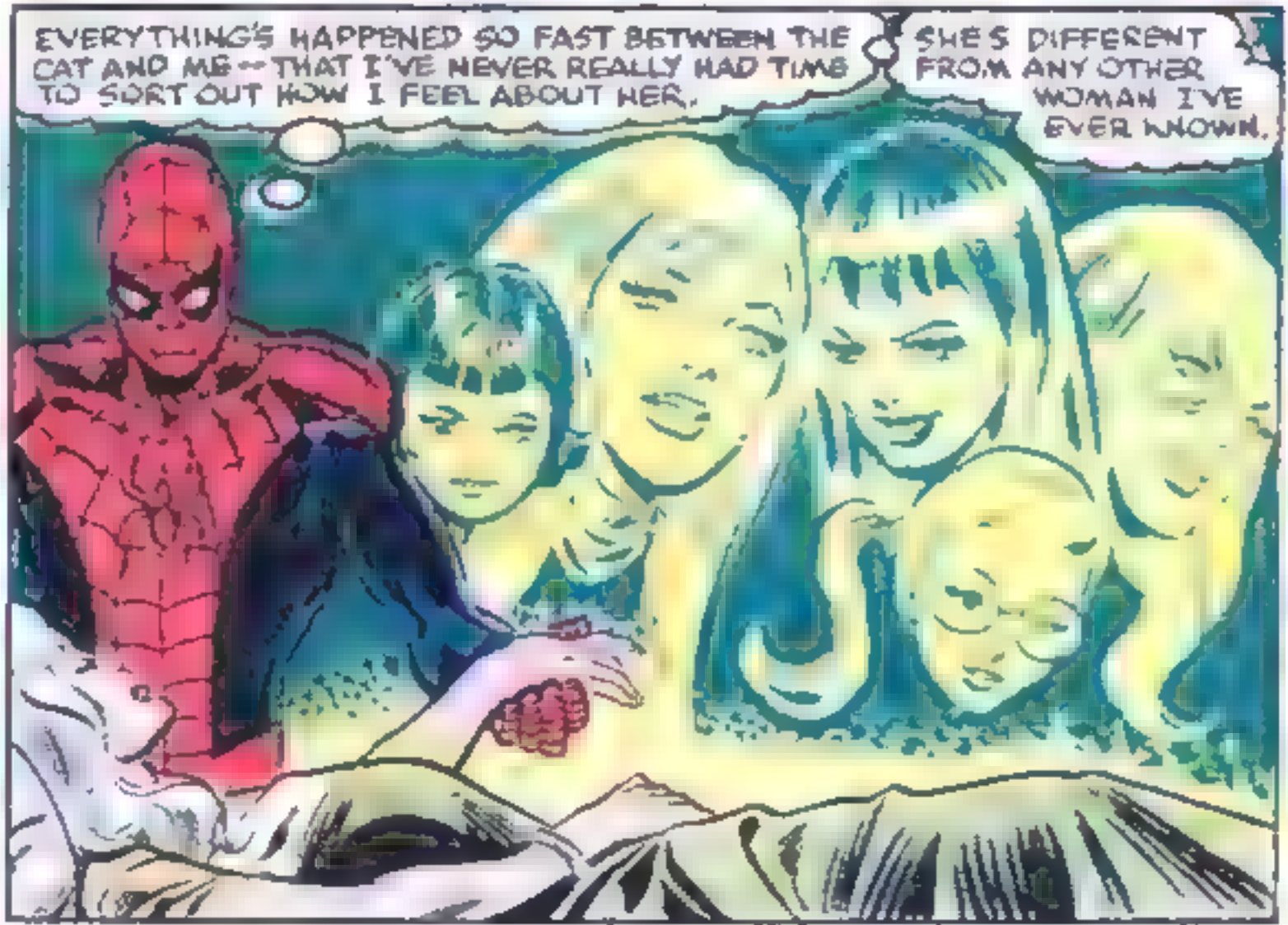
YOU'LL BE BETTER SOON, FELICIA...

AND THEN, WHAT?

A close-up of a woman's face with blonde hair, looking up at a red Spider-Man mask.

EVERYTHING'S HAPPENED SO FAST BETWEEN THE CAT AND ME-- THAT I'VE NEVER REALLY HAD TIME TO SORT OUT HOW I FEEL ABOUT HER.

SHE'S DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER WOMAN I'VE EVER KNOWN.

Spider-Man is standing in a room, surrounded by a group of five women who are looking at him with interest.

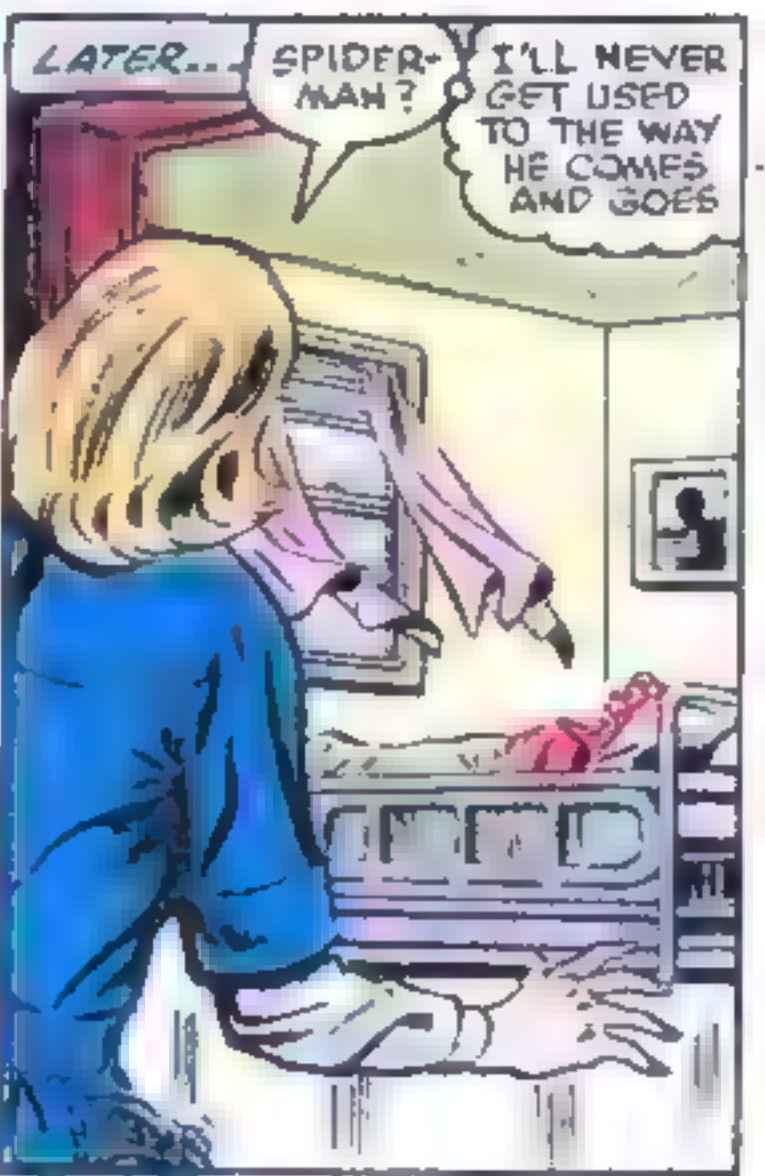
I'M REALLY ATTRACTED TO HER.. BUT A REAL RELATIONSHIP NEEDS A BETTER FOUNDATION THAN THAT!

A close-up of Spider-Man's mask looking down at a woman with blonde hair who is looking up at him.

LATER...

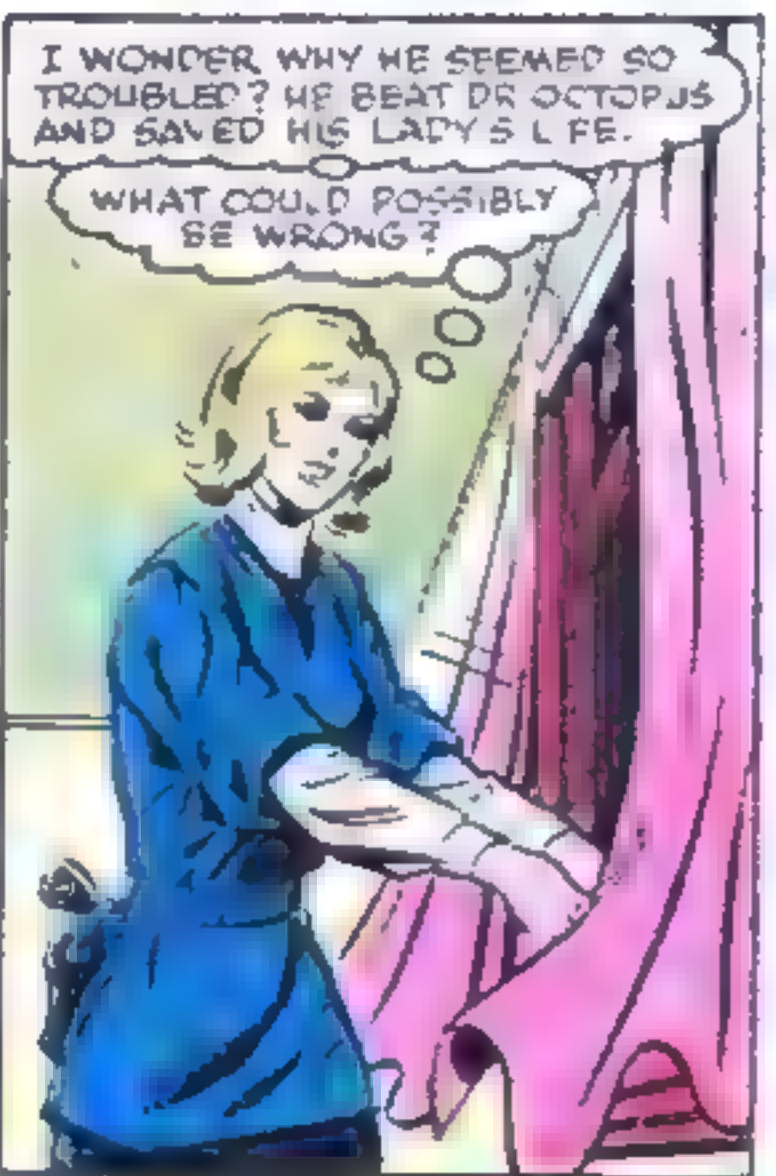
SPIDER-MAN?

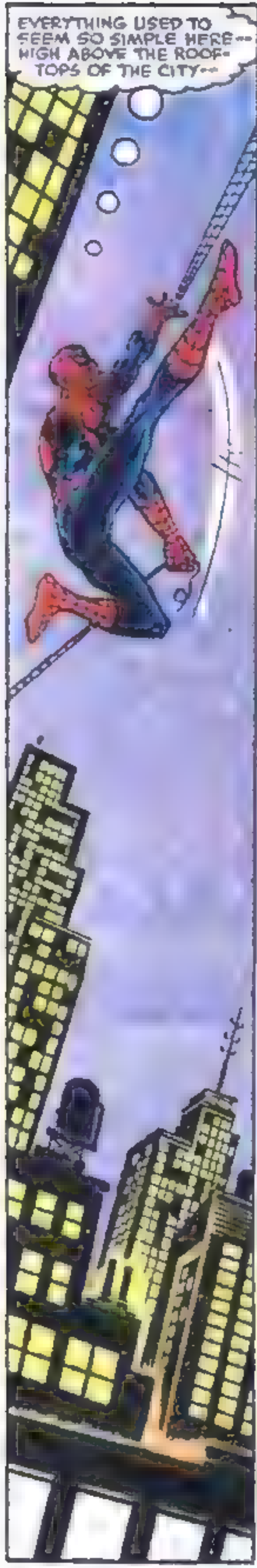
I'LL NEVER GET USED TO THE WAY HE COMES AND GOES

A woman with blonde hair is sitting on a bed, looking at a Spider-Man costume that is lying on the bed.

I WONDER WHY HE SEEMED SO TROUBLED? HE BEAT DR OCTOPUS AND SAVED HIS LADY'S LIFE.

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE WRONG?

A woman with blonde hair is standing by a window, looking out. She is wearing a blue dress.

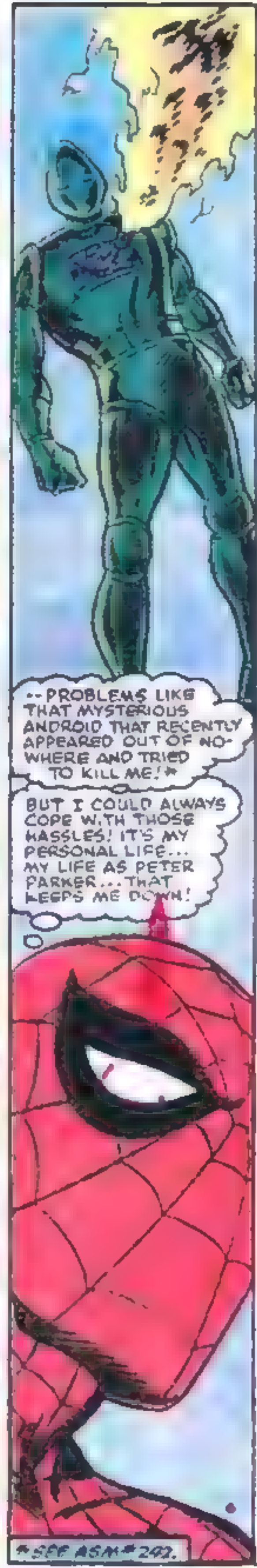


EVERYTHING USED TO SEEM SO SIMPLE HERE-- HIGH ABOVE THE ROOF-TOPS OF THE CITY--



THERE WERE NO WORRIES I COULDN'T DISMISS BY SIMPLY SLINGING A WEBLINE!

SURE, I'VE ALWAYS HAD MY SHARE OF PROBLEMS AS SPIDER-MAN--

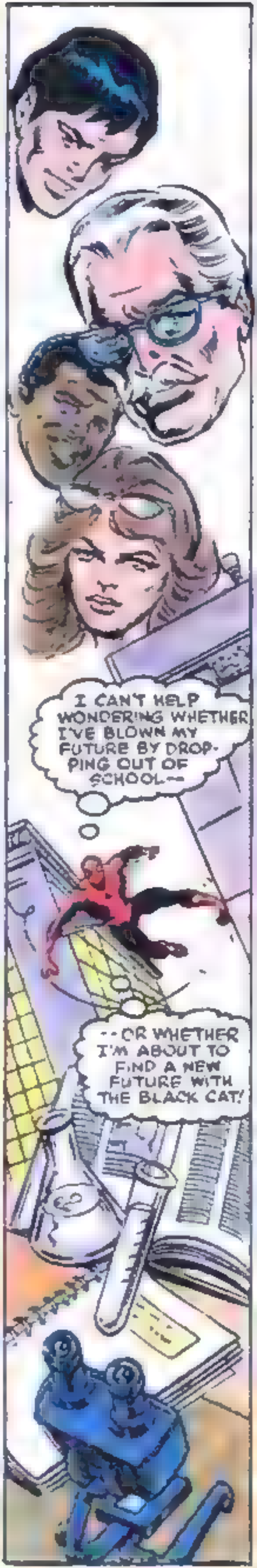


--PROBLEMS LIKE THAT MYSTERIOUS ANDROID THAT RECENTLY APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE AND TRIED TO KILL ME!*

BUT I COULD ALWAYS COPE WITH THOSE HASSLES! IT'S MY PERSONAL LIFE... MY LIFE AS PETER PARKER... THAT KEEPS ME DOWN!

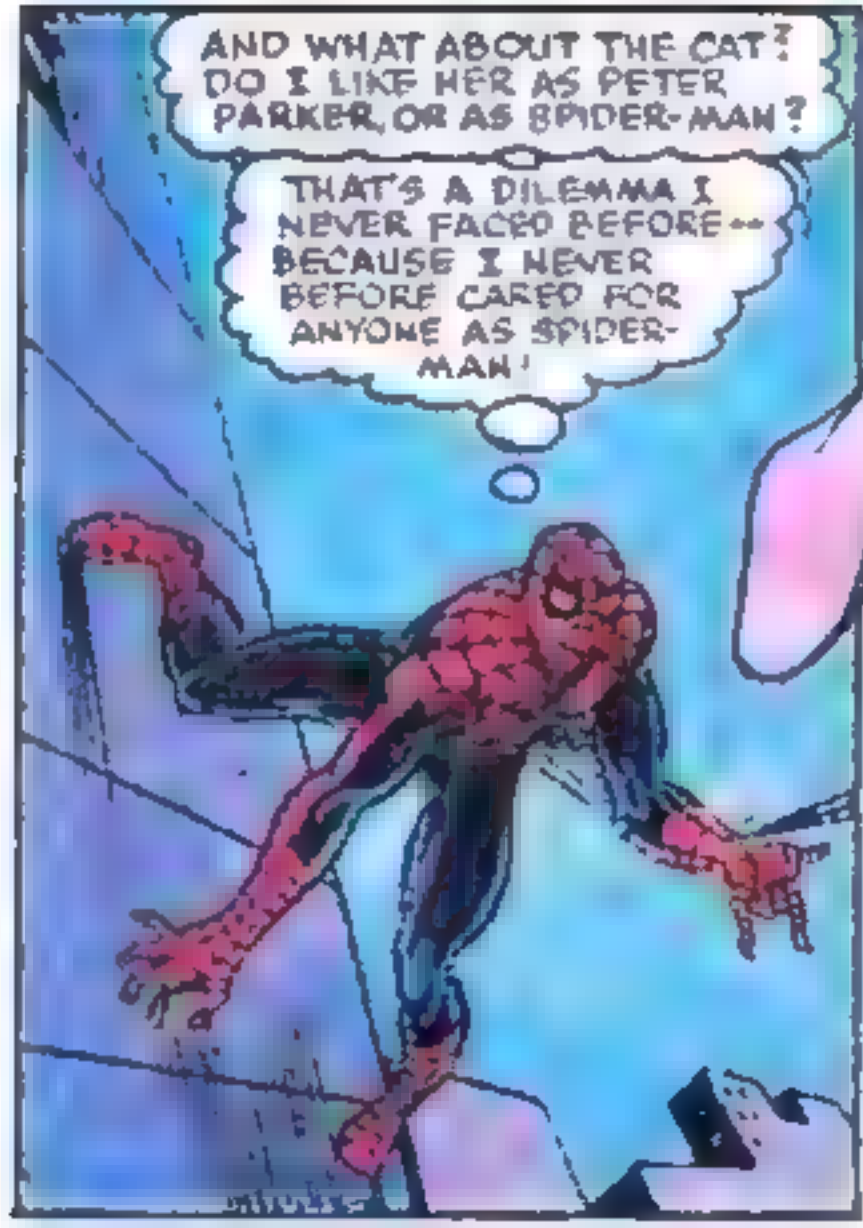


*SEE ASM#292.



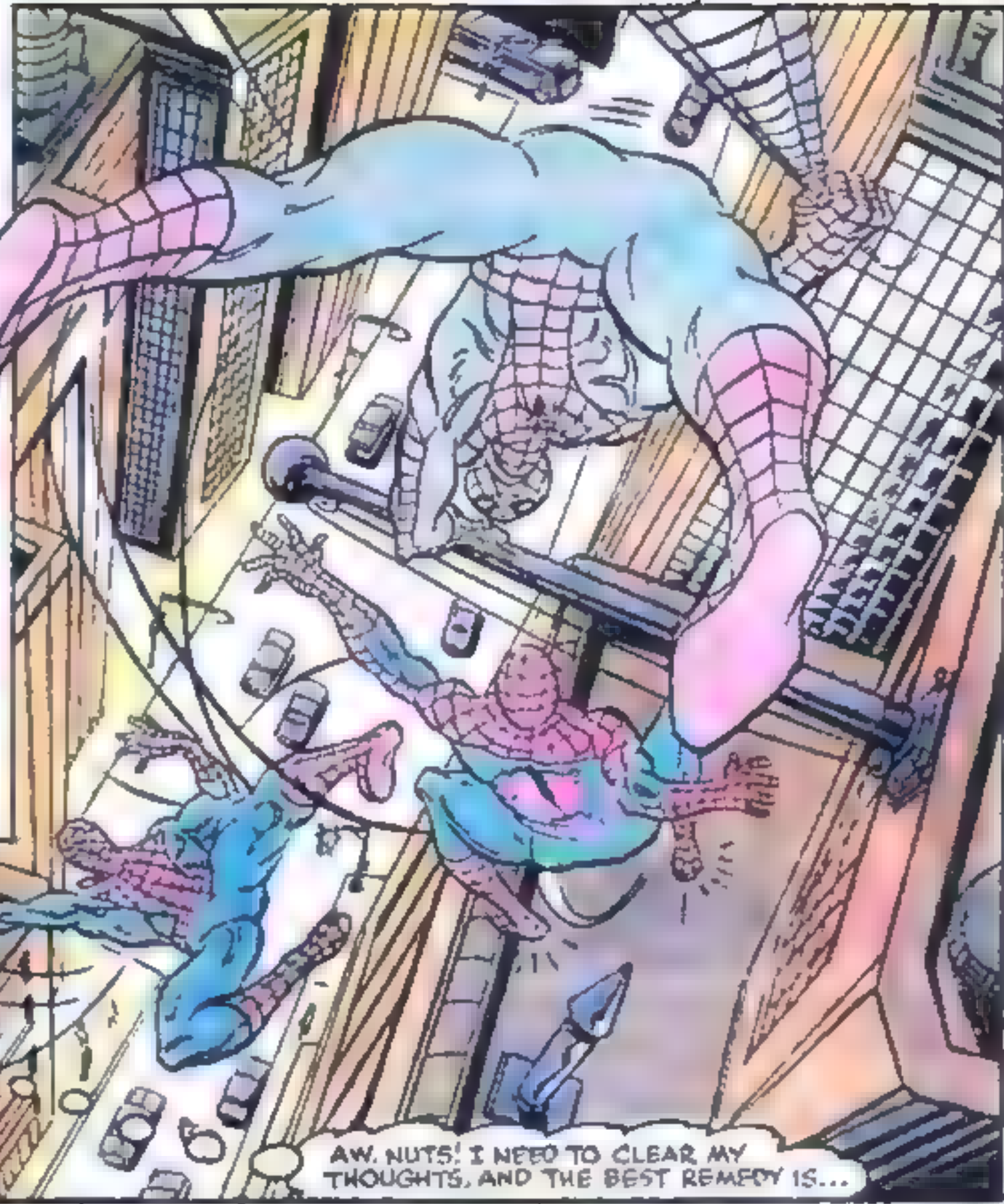
I CAN'T HELP WONDERING WHETHER I'VE BLOWN MY FUTURE BY DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL--

--OR WHETHER I'M ABOUT TO FIND A NEW FUTURE WITH THE BLACK CAT!



AND WHAT ABOUT THE CAT?
DO I LIKE HER AS PETER
PARKER, OR AS SPIDER-MAN?

THAT'S A DILEMMA I
NEVER FACED BEFORE--
BECAUSE I NEVER
BEFORE CARED FOR
ANYONE AS SPIDER-
MAN!

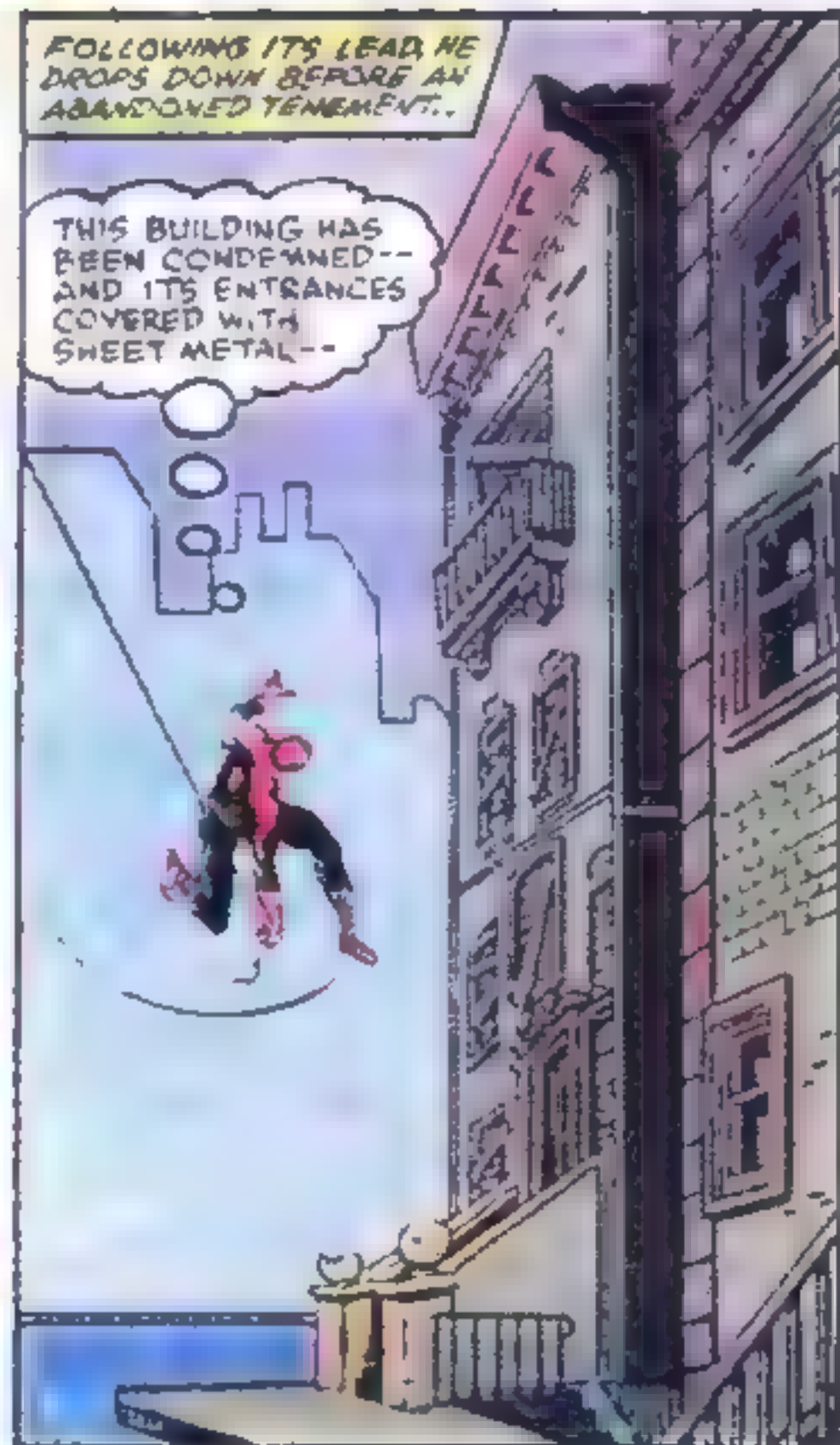


AW, NUTS! I NEED TO CLEAR MY
THOUGHTS, AND THE BEST REMEDY IS...



...ACTION!

HIS SPIDER-
SENSE TINGLES
WARNING HIM
OF DANGER...

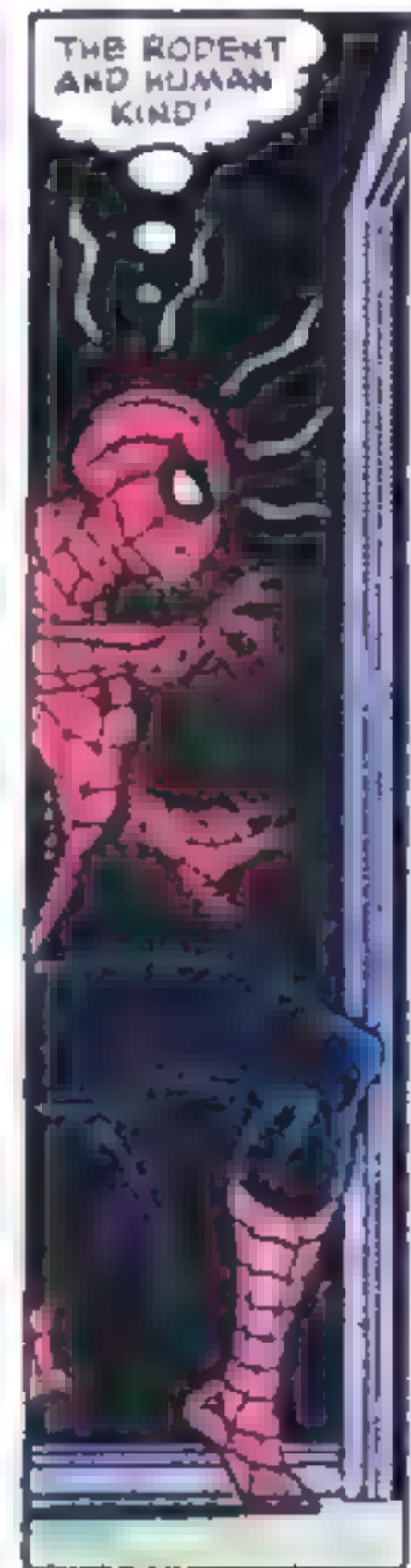


FOLLOWING ITS LEAD HE
DROPS DOWN BEFORE AN
ABANDONED TENEMENT..

THIS BUILDING HAS
BEEN CONDEMNED--
AND ITS ENTRANCES
COVERED WITH
SHEET METAL--



-- BUT THESE
HOLES ARE BIG
ENOUGH FOR
NEW YORK'S
OVERSIZED RATS...



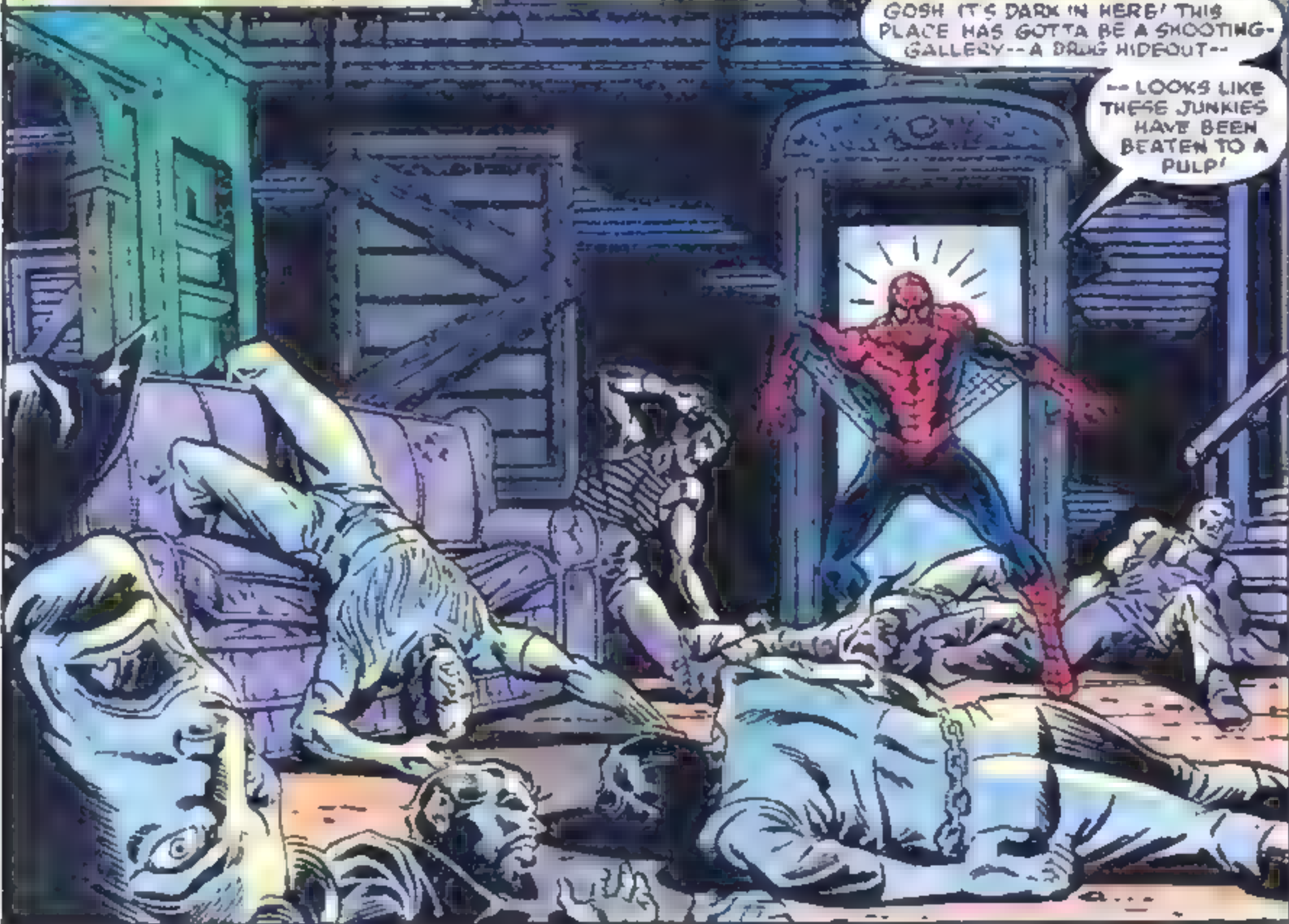
THE RODENT
AND HUMAN
KIND!

THE RATS WERE WISE ENOUGH TO AVOID THIS RUNDOWN RESIDENCE TONIGHT.

THEIR HUMAN COUNTERPARTS WERE SOMEWHAT LESS WISE

GOSH IT'S DARK IN HERE! THIS PLACE HAS GOTTA BE A SHOOTING-GALLERY--A DRUG HIDEOUT--

-- LOOKS LIKE THESE JUNKIES HAVE BEEN BEATEN TO A PULP!



THEIR PUNISHMENT WAS WHAT THEY DESERVED.

WHO--?

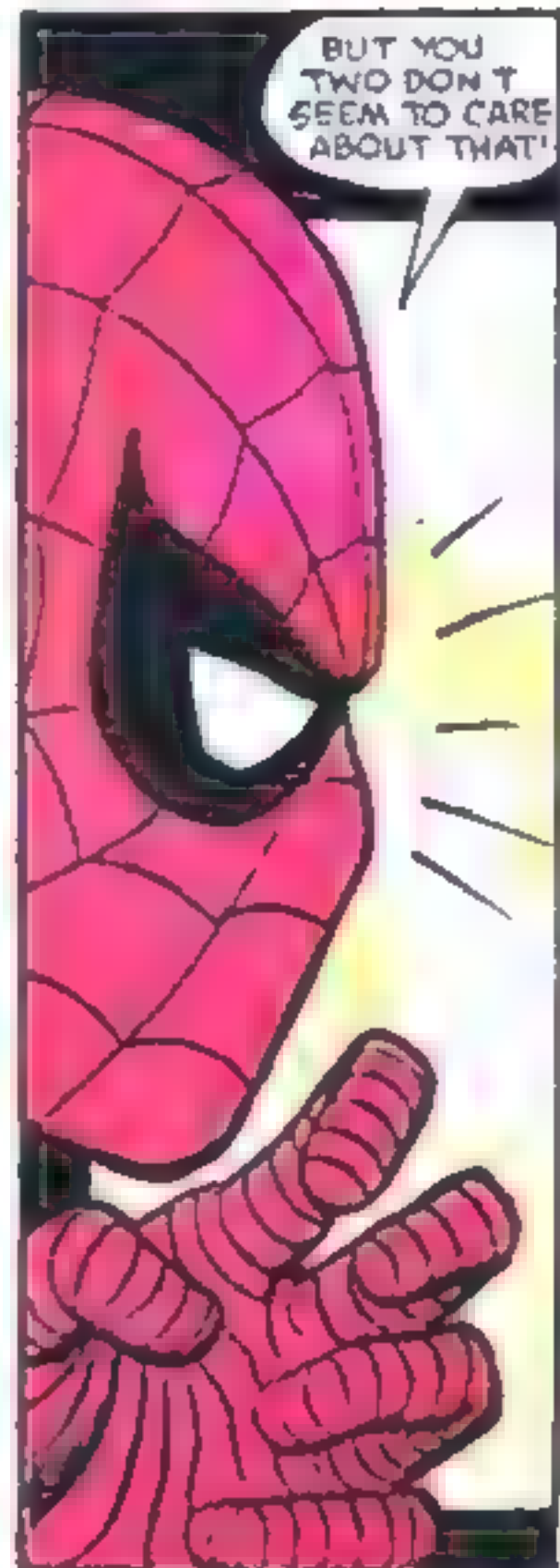


CLOAK & DAGGER! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN! DIDN'T YOU EVER HEAR ABOUT DUE PROCESS OF LAW?!



JUNKIES ARE PEOPLE! THEY HAVE LEGAL RIGHTS, TOO!

BUT YOU TWO DON'T SEEM TO CARE ABOUT THAT!

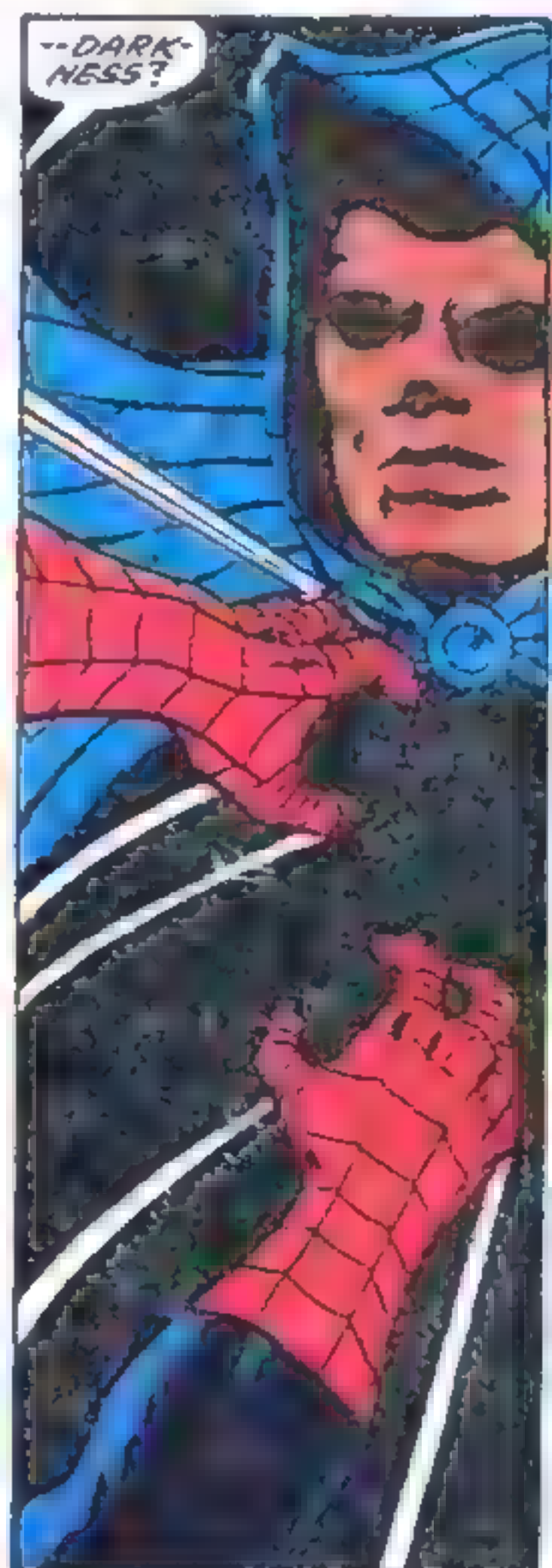
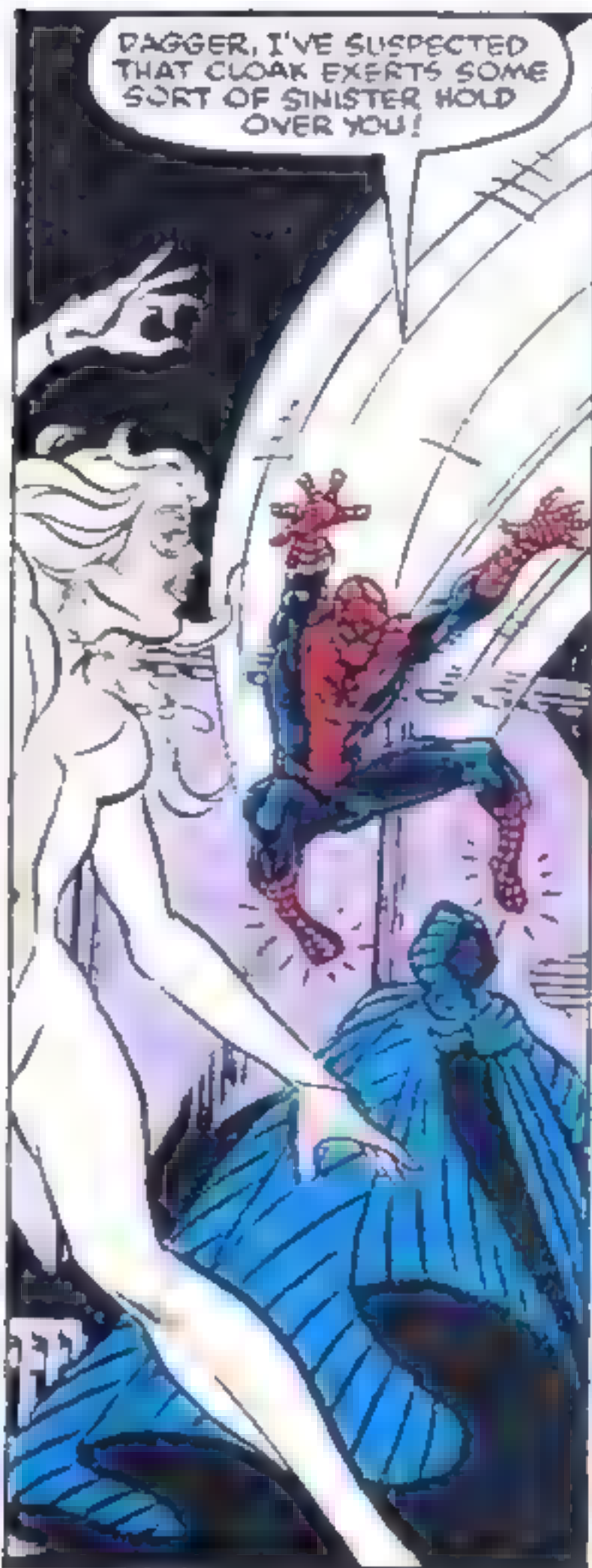
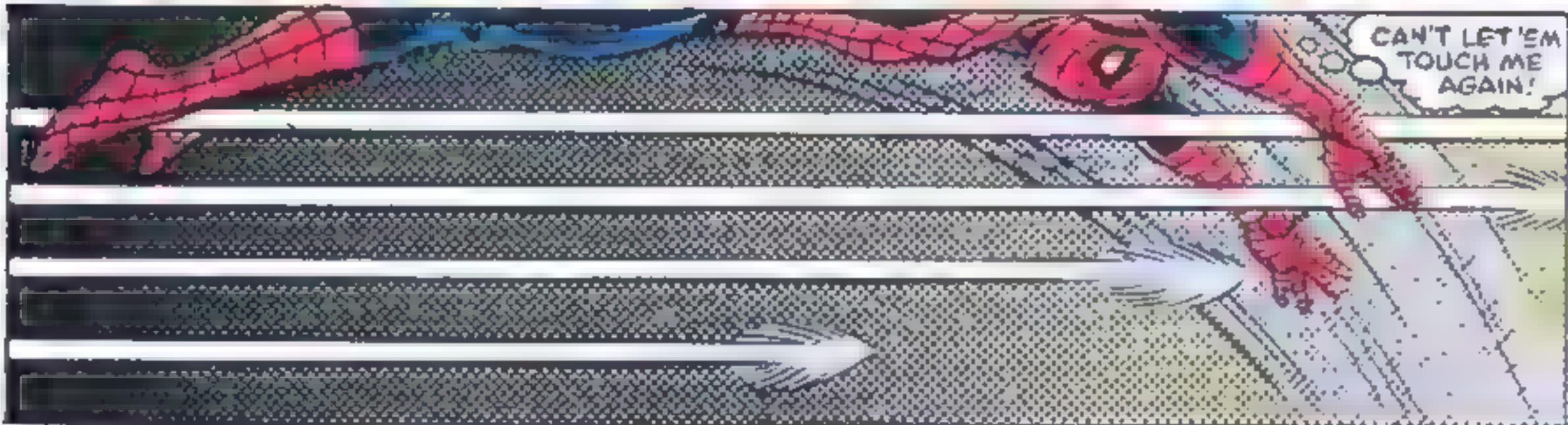
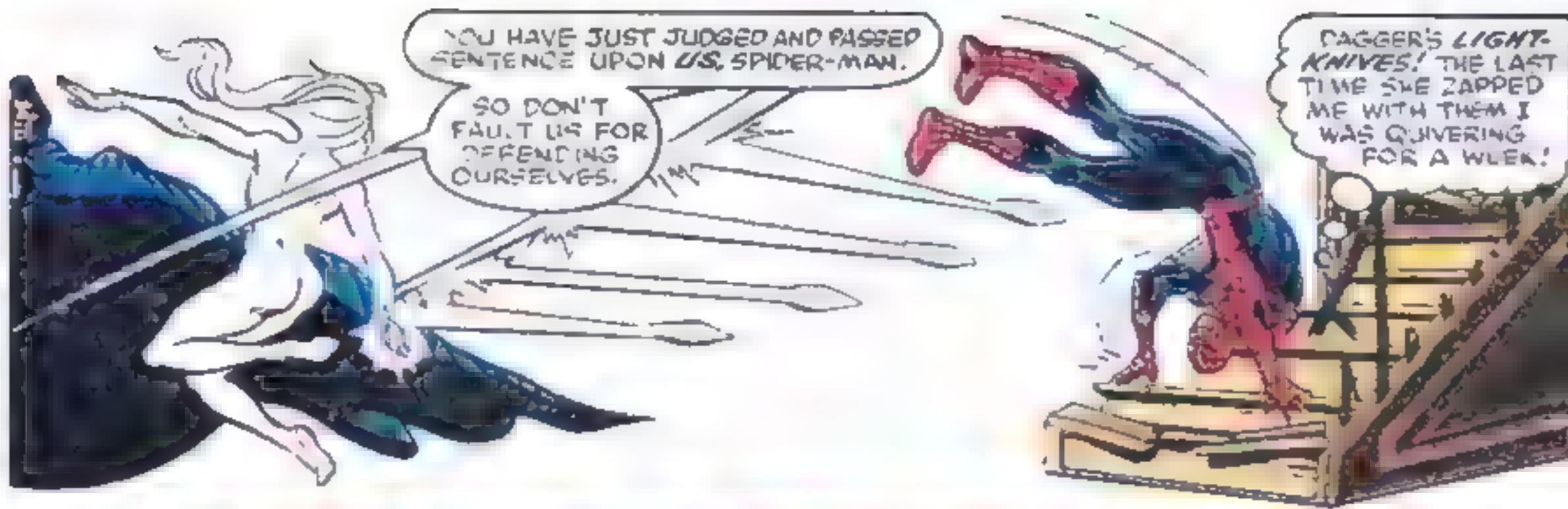


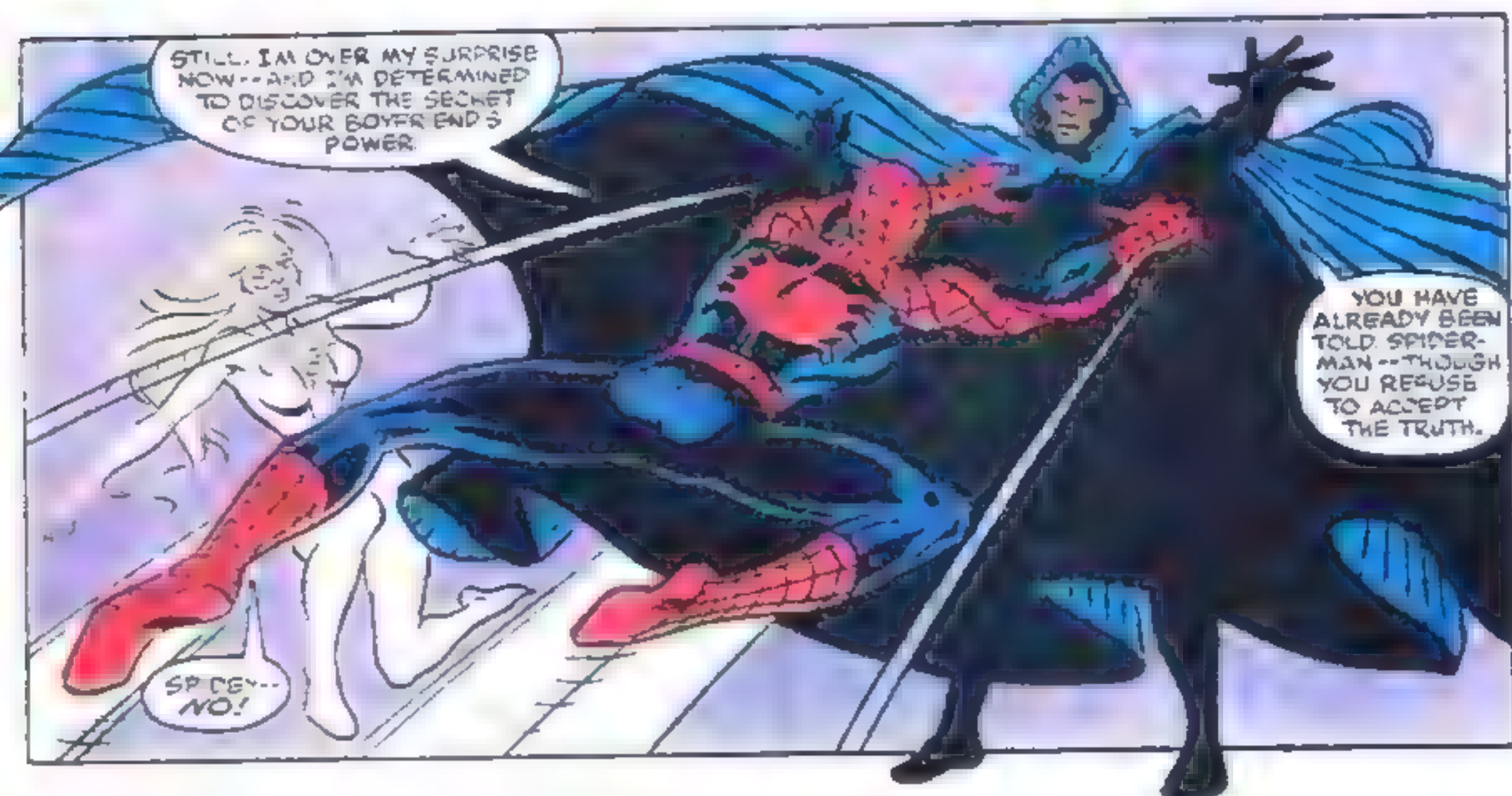
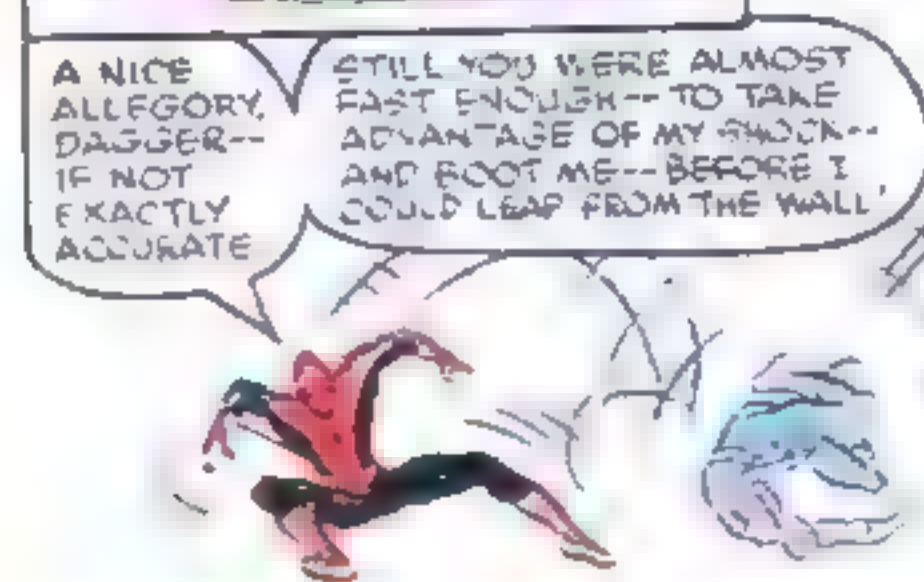
YOU'RE AS BAD AS THE
CRIMINALS YOU SAY
YOU PUNISH!



AMAZINGLY SPIDER-
MAN'S PREY ELUDES
HIM AS CYCLOP SIDE-
STEPS INTO SHADOW.

... AND DAREDEVIL
LITELY DASHES AWAY.







I AM DARKNESS,
ALL-CONSUMING,
NEVER-ENDING...

...AN ETERNITY
OF NIGHT!

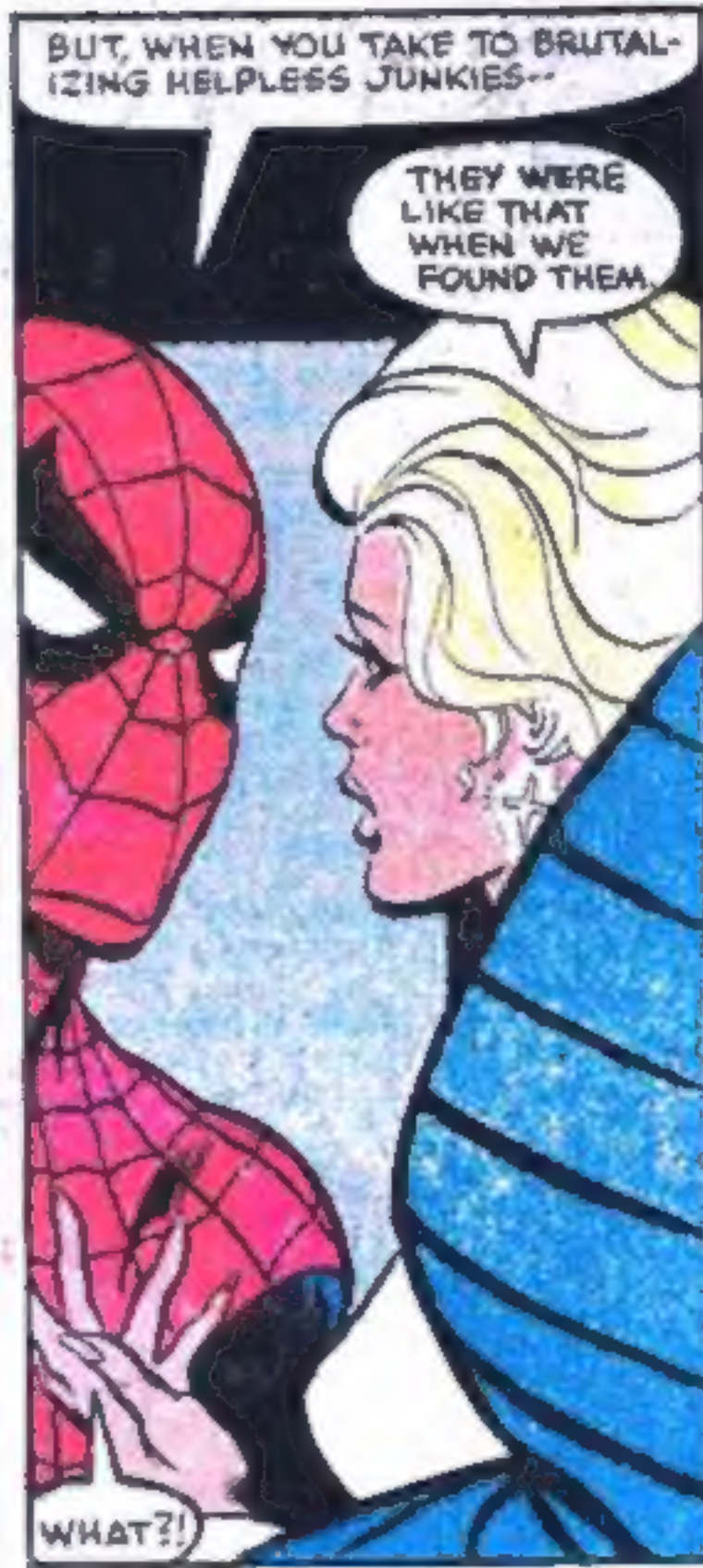
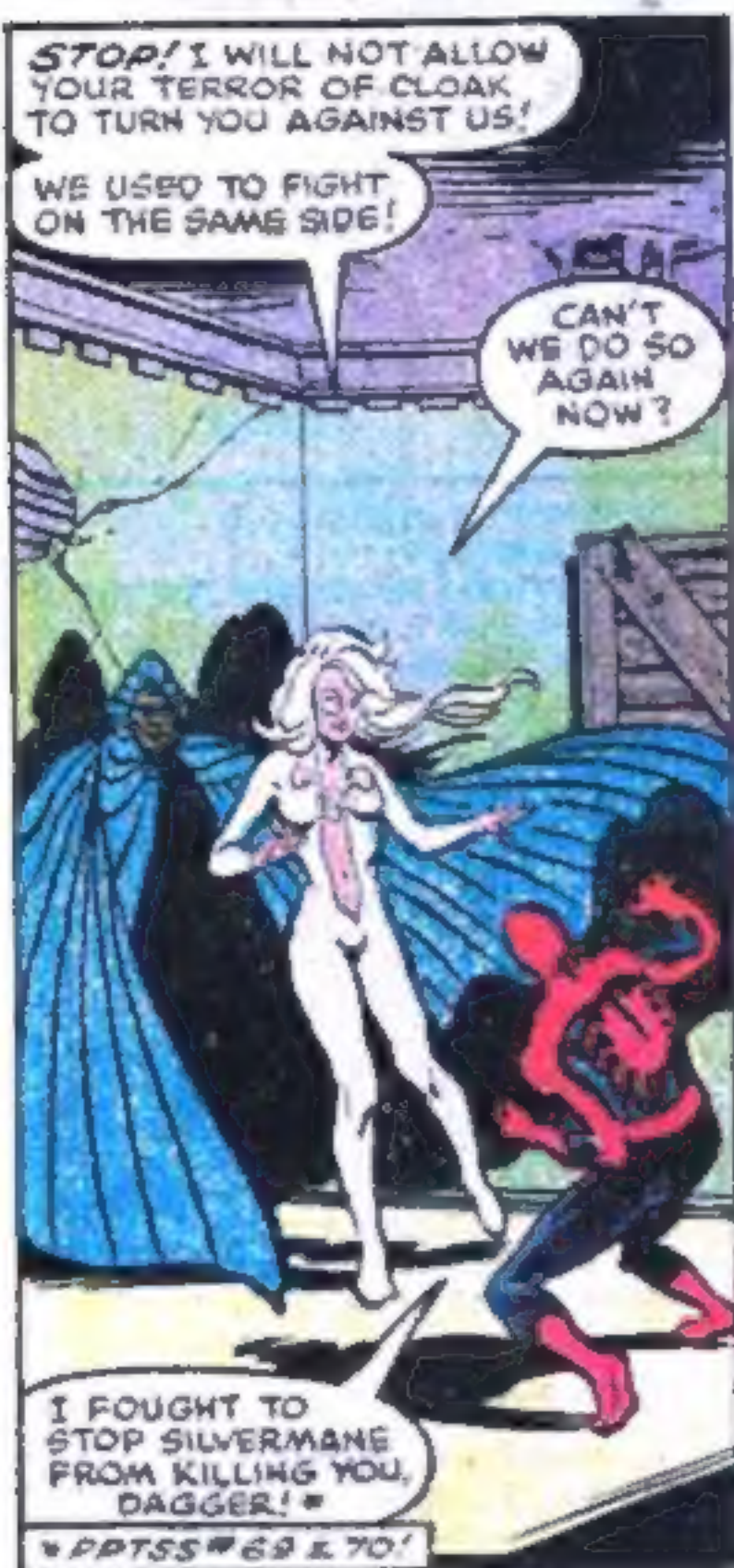
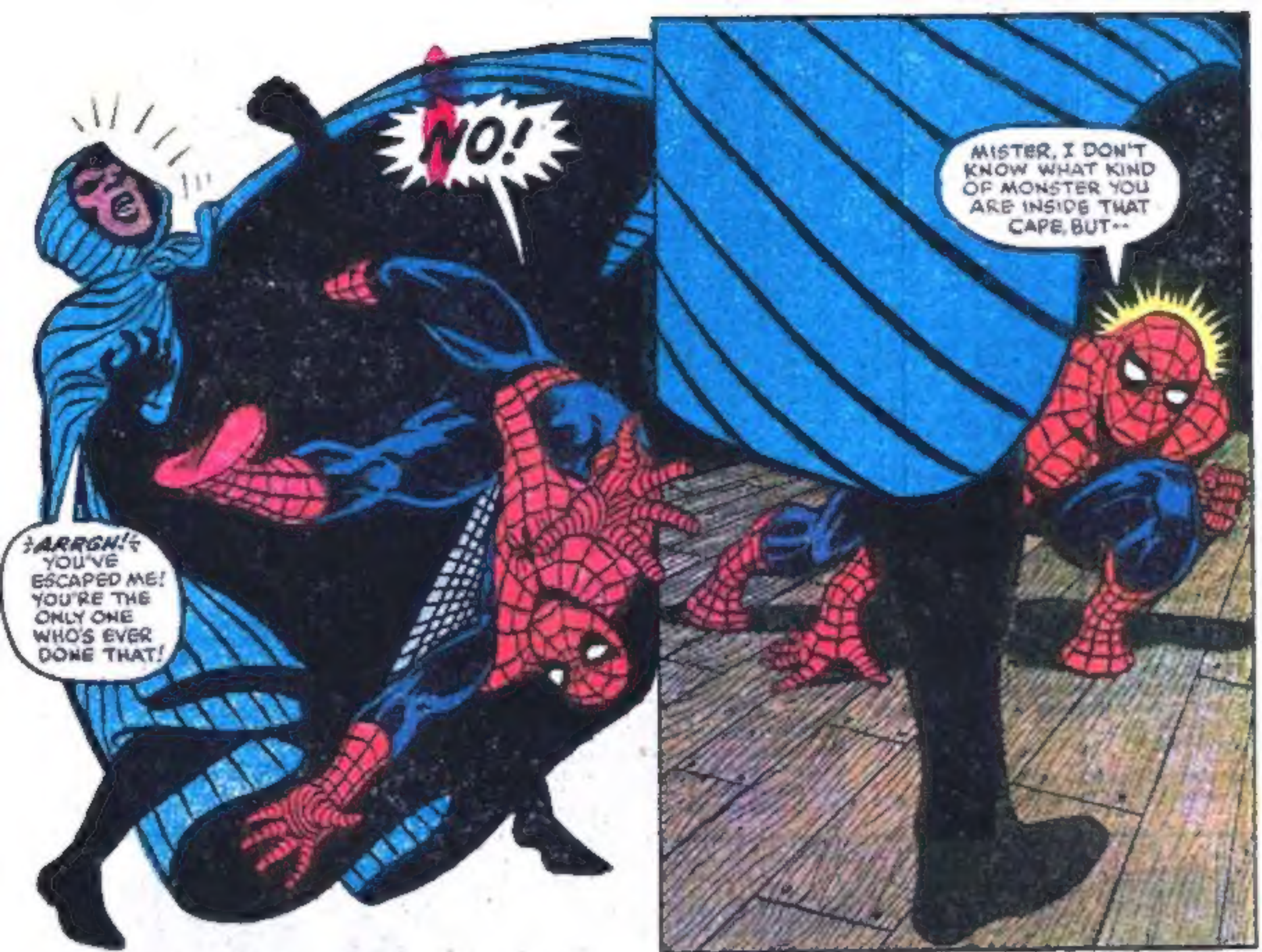
ENGULFED IN THE VAST
AND SPREADING CLOAK
OF DARKNESS, SPIDER-MAN
FINDS HIMSELF LOST...

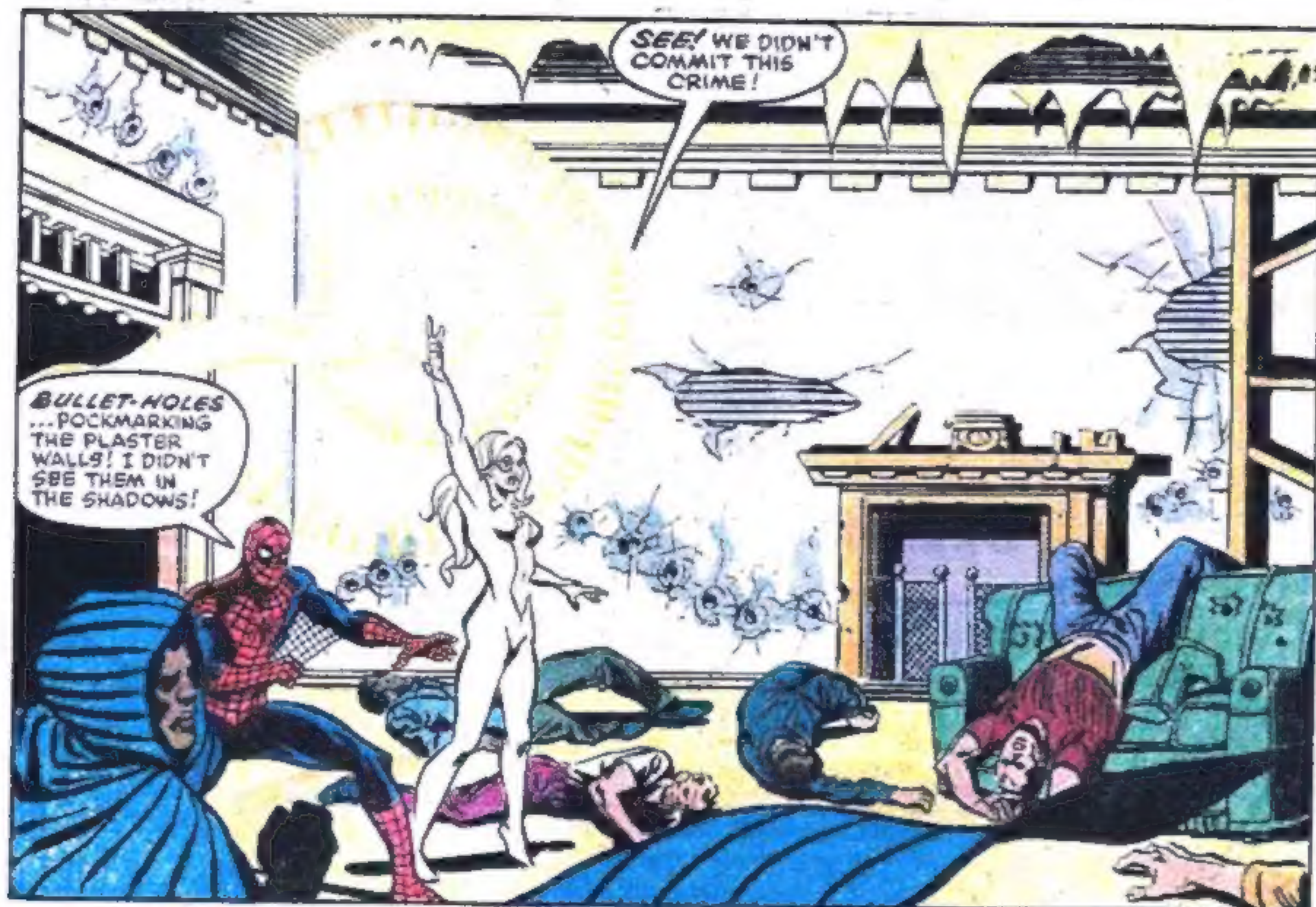


...ALONE...



...IN AN EMPTI-
NESS COLDER
THAN ANY GRAVE.





NEXT: *THE RACE FOR THE FAT MAN*

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
ELIOT BROWN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Spider-People,

I am writing to you in response to PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #75. It was the most incredible issue I've read since Cloak and Dagger's last appearance in this mag. The action-art was truly spectacular. This is the first time I've ever felt so strongly about something that happened in a comic book.

I was very disappointed when the Black Cat "died" a few issues back. Please don't let her die again.

I felt as much joy as Peter did when the Black Cat turned up alive. You see, aside from super powers, Peter Parker and I are quite a bit alike. Things don't work out for us much of the time. And, being a junior in college, I can relate to Pete's having to meet the deadline on a paper and having to hold down a job at the same time.

I've followed Spider-Man's adventures for a long time now and I've begun to feel that there is a little Peter Parker in all of us. I laugh when he laughs and I cry when he cries.

Danny Yates
562 N. Past Oak
Dublin, TX 76446

Dear Editor,

I know that "love 'em and lose 'em" has been a popular theme for Mr. Parker for as long as we can remember, but please let us see a change. Ms. Hardy would be an excellent foil for Peter and would give him a little bit of emotional stability.

Peter deserves someone he can love and be loved by, someone he can share his troubles - his life - with. And I ain't just talking about Aunt May! I'm not saying that Felicia is going to make Peter's life any easier. Oh, no! That would be too much to ask for, but Peter is older now and it's time to move away from the troubled teenage image.

Don't follow tragedy with tragedy. Don't kill Felicia Hardy and don't take her away from Peter by any other means. It doesn't matter that she's had a criminal past. Let Peter learn to love her for herself and hopefully learn more about himself in the process.

Also, after all these years, it would be interesting to learn more about the rest of Peter's family. Doesn't he have any other aunts or uncles, cousins, etc.?

Many thanks for the years of enjoyment PETER PARKER has provided. I'll be looking forward to many more.

Dave Gibbons
No Address Given

Dear Tom and Bill,

No! Don't do it! Don't even think about it! Don't kill off the Black Cat!

Do you guys realize the potential you have here? It is the potential for change, which has always been Marvel's forte.

Let's think this out. We have here the greatest thing for Pete since Gwen Stacey. Felicia is gorgeous, spunky, intelligent and has a sense of humor. She loves him. He loves her, too. He just hasn't fully realized it or admitted it yet.

If we accept that Spidey is a loner and we can't have him getting tied down, what's the "standard out"? To kill her off or write her out of the series, of course. But I think that's been done too often in the past.

What are the alternatives?

Consider this: Black Cat could become Spidey's partner or sidekick. Before you say no, think about it. It worked with Captain America. What's that you say? Cap's no loner and The Falcon never had a romantic interest in him? True, but how about Daredevil? It seems to me that he's more of a loner than Spider-Man is. Some of his greatest stories are from the period where he teamed up and was involved with the Black Widow. Maybe that didn't work out in the long run, but I think it could have, and, in fact, I wish it had. Look at the liberties that John Byrne took with the F.F. He made changes that meant taking chances and that worked, too.

Let's face it, you'd make everyone happy by doing the thing that is both the least and most expected. The fans would be happy. Peter and Felicia would definitely be happy. Sure, they'd have problems, but love conquers all, right? And, I'm sure you guys would be happy writing such an enjoyable series and being responsible for such creations.

So, what's to prevent it? Tradition? Well, with Marvel's well-earned reputation for daring to do the non-traditional, I refuse to believe you wouldn't use an idea solely because it goes against tradition.

Conclusion: GO FOR IT!

Eric Singerman
8805 S. R. 202
Tipp City, OH 45371

Bill:

I don't trust the Black Cat. I don't like the Black Cat.

But, the fact that Spider-Man is obviously in love with the lady, and she appears to be in love with him, certainly will lead to some interesting circumstances. Will they become partners? Will he reveal his identity to her? Will Doctor Octopus kill the Black Cat? (That's what I'm betting on.)

Jay Tuttle
Rm. 203 Box 51
Edinboro State College
Edinboro, PA 16444

The Black Cat'll be around for a while, folks. But what happens to her - and how it'll affect her wall-crawling paramour - is something I'm not gonna tip my hand about. You'll see it all unfold in our Spider-titles, though... and I'm betting it won't be what you expect.

Dear Marvel,

Issue #75 of PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN was one of the best ever, and I thank you for it. The Black Cat has always been, and still is, the best female Marvel character.

But, I ask you... did the Black Cat gain another arm during her absence? I ask because on page 39, panel 6, Black Cat has two arms hanging down and a third on Spider-Man's face. I think that earns me a No-Prize. How about it?

David Weber
2048B Danbury Lane
Harper Woods, MI 48225

Dear Marvel,

I really liked issue #75.

Only one question. Where did the Black Cat get three arms?

John Drury
110 1/2 Market St.
Palmyra, NY 14522

Okay! Okay! You guys caught us third-handed! We blew it! But you don't get the No-Prize until you help us explain our faux pas away. That's what No-Prizes are all about. I don't envy you - this is a tough one.

See ya next month.

Tom DeFalco

